

Blacks (W.V.)

Community Affairs File

*Regard (TH)
dup*

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.

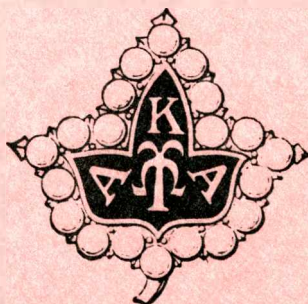
FOUNDED-----1908

ALPHA ETA OMEGA CHAPTER

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

ORGANIZED-----JUNE 16, 1928

'GOLDEN REFLECTIONS - SUSTAINED DIRECTIONS'



1928-1978

50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION JUNE 16-17, 1978

SOUVENIR PROGRAM

REFERENCE

Yigo County Public Library

DO NOT CIRCULATE

PAST BASILEI

- * Soror Evangeline Harris Merriweather
- * Soror Myrtle A. Smith
- * Soror Eura Dawkins
- * Soror Pearl Johnson
- * Soror Lena B. Lyda
- * Soror Elena Cabell Hillman
- * Soror Elva Martin Smith
- Soror Edith Hodge Bigham
- Soror Alibe Simpson Smith
- * Soror Hattie J. Edwards
- Soror Willie Effie Thomas
- Soror Jane D. Shackelford
- Soror Leora E. Taylor
- * Soror Katherine Sims Jones
- Soror Bertha Watt Romby
- Soror Nell Taylor
- * Soror Millie H. Lyda
- Soror Jessie Brown
- Soror Sa Retta Brown
- Soror Adelaide Shelton

* Ivies Beyond The Wall

Pictures of Charter Members



Myrtle Smith



Pearl Johnson



Evangeline
Harris
Merriweather



Eura
Dawkins



Jane Shackelford

BRIEF HISTORY OF ALPHA ETA OMEGA CHAPTER

Inspired by the vision and enthusiasm of a fellow student, Ethel Hedgeman (Lyle), a small group of young women joined her in organizing Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority at Howard University in Washington, D.C. on January 16, 1908. 'Service to all Mankind' has been the chief goal of Alpha Kappa Alpha's program through the years. Though the focal point of the program has 'shifted' with the passing years necessitated by growth and change, the purpose of Alpha Kappa Alpha as stated by our Founders has remained constant: to cultivate and encourage high scholastic and ethical standards, to help alleviate problems concerning girls and women, (especially those of Negro Women) in order to improve the social stature of the race, and keep alive within the alumnae an interest in college life and progressive movement emanating therefrom'.¹

Twenty years after the founding of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, five talented young ladies, impressed with its underlying philosophy and purpose, met at the home of Soror Evangeline Harris (Merriweather) on June 16, 1928, and organized Alpha Eta Omega Chapter in Terre Haute, Indiana. Participants in the establishment of our Chapter were Sorors Evangeline Harris (Merriweather) whose interest and leadership stimulated the Chapter's organization, Eura Dawkins, Pearl Johnson, Myrtle Smith, and Jane Dabney Shackelford, our only living charter member. Soror Murray B. Atkins of Indianapolis, Central Regional Director, officiated at the meeting. In September, 1928, Sorors Lena B. Lyda and Elva Martin Smith became the first 'neophytes' of Alpha Eta Omega Chapter.

Among the dedicated members attracted to Alpha Eta Omega Chapter during the early period of growth were Sorors Clara Parks Barnett, Ruth Hood Battle, Edith Hodge Bigham, Edna L. Edwards, Elena Cabell Hillman, Minnie Hoover, Catherine Sims Jones, Lena B. Lyda, Margaret J. Parks, Lottie Offett Robinson, Alibe Simpson Smith, Elva Martin Smith, Marguerite Taylor, Celia Upthegrove Jones, and others.

¹ Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority-

'Manual of Standard Procedures, (1975, pp. 6-7).

The role of Alpha Eta Omega Chapter has changed frequently during the past fifty years. Prior to the chartering of their Evansville Chapter, Zeta Zeta Omega in 1954, several sorors from Evansville met with our Chapter for a period of time and shared program responsibilities of service as we enjoyed sisterly cooperation. This loyal group included Ada Chester, Elfrieda Churchill, Allouise Jaxson, Agnes Mann, Jacqueline Neal, Alberta Stevenson, Lillian Syler, Willie Effie Thomas (past basileus of our Chapter 1950-1951) Mary Coleman, Carolyn Wilson, and others.

During the year 1959, we became a 'Mixed Chapter' with the induction of a group of ISU undergraduates into our Chapter. The undergraduate sorors now have their Chapter, Epsilon Xi, on the campus of ISU with a Graduate Advisor from Alpha Eta Omega Chapter working with them and the interested cooperation of the graduate sorors.

In retrospect, Alpha Eta Omega Chapter with its comparatively small membership is justifiably proud of the support we have given to the national program targets during the past fifty years. A few of our local services have involved the awarding of scholarships, presenting cultural and social programs, remembering needy families at Thanksgiving and Christmas, contributing to the 'Community Chest,' the Red Cross, Day Care Centers, Girl Scout Camperships and sending Christmas gifts to patients at Logansport State Hospital. On the national level we have supported the Ethel Hedgeman Lyle Endowment Fund, the Cleveland Job Corps Center for Women, the United Negro College Fund, contributed to the NAACP Project Freedom Fund by purchasing an NAACP Life Membership in 1970, and cooperated with several other national program activities. During the past summer a small group of our sorors accepted the challenge of a recent national program implementation 'Reading: a Right, a Responsibility' by conducting a reading improvement workshop for children at Hyle Center.

Among the many pleasant memories associated with our history, two special events are outstanding. One occasion was the Central Regional Conference of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority which convened in Terre Haute at the YWCA (North 7th Street), May 8-10, 1953, with Alpha Eta Omega as the Principal Hostess Chapter assisted by three other Chapters - Tau, Indiana University, Kappa Indianapolis, and Alpha Mu Omega, Indianapolis. Conference Theme: 'Equal Opportunity - Equal Responsibility.' Soror Evelyn Roberts of St. Louis, Mo., was the Regional Director and Soror Jane Shackelford was our Chapter Basileus. The other enjoyable event was our Founders Day Program on January 15, 1966 - 4:00 P.M., at ISU with two national officers as Chapter guests. Our Supreme Basileus, (National President) Soror Julia Purnell, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, was the guest speaker for the Founders Day Program and our Regional Director, Soror LeeAnna Shelburne of Louisville, Kentucky, led the rededication service.

Among our Chapter's 'souvenirs' are expressions of grateful appreciation to friends and patrons whose fine support of our fund-raising projects through the years has given impetus to our local and national service commitments.

The past fifty years of Alpha Eta Omega Chapter, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority are gateway experiences through which we have passed to preview future challenges of greater services to all mankind and enriched fellowship.

The torch of ideals 'lighted' by our Founders in 1908 and passed to our Charter Members in 1928 offers a challenge to present and future Sorors of Alpha Eta Omega Chapter to build on the foundation of our past during the next half century so that working together in strong bonds of sisterhood we may 'capture a vision fair.'²

Edith Bigham

² Parker, Marjorie H., Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority
Sixty Years of Service, (Copyright, 1966, Alpha Kappa Alpha
Sorority, Inc.)

THE ONLY SURVIVING CHARTER MEMBER



Soror Jane Shackelford

ELIZABETH SCHMOKE RANDOLPH

Soror Randolph is Associate Superintendent, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools; President, 1977-78 Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development; Member National Education Association; National Association of Administrative Women in Education; American Association of University Women; National Parliamentarian of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Listed in 1971 and 1974 edition of Who's Who of American Women.



CONGRATULATIONS ALPHA ETA OMEGA CHAPTER

OF

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.

WISHING YOU CONTINUED SUCCESS IN

YOUR SERVICE TO MANKIND

TERRE HAUTE BRANCH NAACP

CONGRATULATIONS ALPHA ETA OMEGA CHAPTER

OF

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.

ON YOUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

YOUNG MEN'S CIVIC CLUB

50TH ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM
OF
ALPHA ETA OMEGA CHAPTER
ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

Friday Afternoon, June 16, 1978
3:00 P.M. Meadows Manor East

Ceremony Honoring Soror Jane Shackelford

Friday Evening, June 16, 1978
9:00-12:00, Golden Reflections Disco
Imperial House, 2150 North Third Street

Program, Saturday, June 17, 1978
4:00 P.M.
Imperial House

Invocation-----	Soror Edith Bigham
Welcome-----	Soror Jessie Brown
Music-----	ISU STRING QUARTET
Pictorial Essay-----	Soror F Blanche Foster
Solo-----	Judith Y. Conyers

Greetings-----	Mayor William J. Brighton Superintendent Harmon Baldwin Rev. Noel E. Hord, NAACP
Solo-----	Judith Conyers
Introduction of Speaker-----	Soror Adelaide Shelton Basileus
Speaker-----	Soror Elizabeth Randolph
Basileus in Charge-----	

Music and Reception following Program

String Quartet: Robert Billups; Victor B. Danek;
Veola Dailey; Robert Montgomery

Our Exhibits

We invite you to view the interesting exhibits displayed by Soror Jane D. Shackelford and Soror F Blanche Foster.

Soror Shackelford states that the highlights of her exhibit are six of the original illustrations for 'The Child's Story of the Negro' drawn by Louis Mailou Jones, Professor of Art at Howard University, Washington, D.C., a poster entitled 'Guide Right' Inspirational Display for Negro Youth; a full page Christmas Greeting from the Root Store (1946) to their friends in the Wabash Valley; large scrap-books containing newspaper clippings, book reviews, congratulation cards, telegrams, honors, awards, educational magazines and books recommending her books for improving race relations.

'A Bit of Africa,' the title of Soror Blanche Foster's exhibit dedicated to Soror Shackelford, was collected during her trips and work in Africa. Noting that Soror Shackelford's writing give essence to the importance of knowing and appreciating one's roots, Soror Foster hopes this 'Bit of Africa' will artistically depict our rich spiritual and cultural heritage.

Countries represented are Benin (Dahomey), Ethiopia, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Nigeria, Zaire, and Zimbabwe (Rhodesia).

Committees for 50th Anniversary Celebration of Alpha Eta Omega Chapter

General Chairperson-----	Jean L. Conyers
Co-Chairperson-----	F Blanche Foster
Arrangements-----	Denise Cummings
	Alibe Smith
	Debbie Raspberry
Exhibits and Publicity-----	Karen Waldon
	Minnie Lyda
	Debbie Raspberry
Invitations-----	Leora Taylor
	Brenda Floyd
	Gloria Lucas
Reception-----	Wynona Batton
	Jessie Brown
Souvenir Booklet-----	Edith Bigham
	Lillian Stuart
	Jean L. Conyers
	F Blanche Foster

Group picture of present membership



Alpha Eta Omega Chapter
Officers and Active Membership
1978

Elected Officers

Basileus (President)-----	Soror Adelaide Shelton
Anti-Basileus (Vice President)-----	Soror Denise Cummings
Grammateus (Secretary)-----	Soror Gloria Lucas
Epistoleus (Corresponding Secretary)--	Soror Leora Taylor
Tamiouchos (Treasurer)-----	Soror Jean Conyers
Graduate Advisor-----	Soror Deborah Raspberry
Ivy Leaf Reporter-----	Soror Karen Waldon

Appointed Officers

Membership Chairperson-----	Soror Jessie Brown
Hodegos (Social Committee Chairperson)	Soror Blanche Foster
Parliamentarian-----	Soror Edith Bigham

Active Membership - 1978

Wynona Batton		Jane D.Shackelford
Edith Bigham		Adelaide Shelton
Jessie Brown	F Blanche Foster	Alibe Smith
Jean Conyers	Gloria Lucas	Lillian Stuart
Denise Cummings	Minnie Lyda	Leora Taylor
Brenda Floyd	Deborah Raspberry	Karen Waldon

Patrons

Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Acuff	Mrs. Norma Boykin
Ms. BenEva Adams	Mrs. Beatrice Bracken
Mr & Mrs. Joseph Adams	Mrs. Geraldine Bradford
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Ahrens	Mr. & Mrs. Karl Bradshaw
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Alexander	Mr. & Mrs. Delroy Branham
Miss Ira Alexander	Mrs. Pat Breault
Mr. & Mrs. Arnold Leon Allen	Miriam Brentlinger
Ms. Mary Elizabeth Allen	Mayor William J. Brighton
Ms. Mable Allen	Dr. & Mrs. Mark Bristol
Ms. Sharon Lynn Allen	Mr. & Mrs. Eckler Brooks
Mr. & Mrs. Simon N. Allen	Mrs. Ella Louise Parrish
Mr. Aaron Anderson	Brown
Mr. & Mrs. Barry Anderson	Mr. & Mrs. Freddie Brown,
Mr. & Mrs. Ernest Anderson	Sr.
Mrs. Lucille Anderson	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Brown
Mr. James L. Anderson	Mr. & Mrs. Wayman Brown
Miss Rita Anderson	Mr. & Mrs. Charles Bruce
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Ard	Mr. & Mrs. Delbert Bush
Mrs. Theresa Austin	Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Avery	Buckner
Mr. & Mrs. Orval Avery	Mr. Aloys Cabell, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. C.L. Bailey	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Calimese
Dr. & Mrs. Harmon Baldwin	Mr. & Mrs. Art Carey
Mrs. Loretta Spottsville Ballard	Mr. Emmert Carter and
Mr. & Mrs. Lorenzo Banks	Guest
Reverend & Mrs. John Barnett	Mrs. Gertrude Carter
Mr. & Mrs. Henry Barnhill	Mr. & Mrs. Percy Carter
Mr. & Mrs. Virgil Batson	Mrs. Luella Casson
Mr. & Mrs. C.L. Batton, Jr.	Miss Mary Chalos
Mrs. Jean Beavers	Mr. & Mrs. Pete Chalos
Dr. & Mrs. Iverson Bell	Mr. & Mrs. Sherman Cheaten,
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Benberry	Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Irving Bennett	Mr. & Mrs. William Clayton
Mrs. Benton	Ms. Margaret Clements
Mr. & Mrs. Emuel Bigham	Miss Sharon Clements
Mrs. Marie Billings	Mr. & Mrs. Richard Clokey
Mr. Robert Bishop	Dr. & Mrs. James Conyers
Mr. & Mrs. Anthony Black	Ms. Judith Conyers
Mr. & Mrs. David Blakely	Ms. Norma Jean Cook
	Mr. & Mrs. Lloyd Cottee
	Ms. Denise Cummings

Patrons

Mr. & Mrs. James Cummings	Rev. & Mrs. Noel Hord
Mr. & Mrs. David Cundiff	Mr. & Mrs. John Houston
Mr. George Decker	Mrs. Jeanetta Howard
Miss Amy Sue Dixon	Mr. & Mrs. Laurence Howell
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Dunbar	Mrs. Rose Mary Hutchinson
Mrs. Juanita D. Dunlap	Mrs. Alma H. Jackson
Mr. & Mrs. David Edwards	Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Jackson
Mrs. Howard Edwards	Ms. Carol Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Edwards	Mrs. Catherine Jones
Mrs. Letha Edwards	Mrs. Celia Upthegrove Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Sylvester Edwards	Mr. Ear! Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Edwards	Mr. & Mrs. Lewis Jones
Dr. Wm. A. Edwards	Mr. & Mrs. L.D. Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Jerry Einsteadig	Mrs. Mildred Jones
Mrs. Marie Eisom	Miss Wilma Jones
Dr. & Mrs. Ronald Elperin	Mr. Winton D. Jones
Mr. & Mrs. Darrell Felling	Mr. & Mrs. Albert Jördan
Mrs. Catherine Fisher	Mrs. Martha Joyner
Rev. & Mrs. James Flowers	Mr. & Mrs. Shelvey Keglär
Mr. & Mrs. Clifton Floyd	Ms. Gloria Kirkland
Rev. & Mrs. Raymond Floyd	Mr. & Mrs. Herman Knox
Dr. & Mrs. Winston C. Floyd	Mr. Donald H. Kuehn
Mr. & Mrs. Tommy Ford	Mr. Burt Ladd & Mrs. Amanda
Mr. & Mrs. William Ford	Townsend
Mr. & Mrs. Gary and Darlene	Mr. & Mrs. Marcellus Ladd
Mr. & Mrs. John T. Gelder	Mrs. Eugene A. Lambert &
Dr. & Mrs. David Alan Gilman	Family
Mrs. Arthelia Grady	Mr. & Mrs. John Laska
Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Graham	Mr. Keith Lawrence & Mrs.
Mr. & Mrs. James Gregg	Seisa Smith
Mr. & Mrs. James Grissom	Mr. John Lee
Mr. & Mrs. Allen Guy	Mr. & Mrs. Julius Ligon
Mr. & Mrs. William Hamrick	Mr. & Mrs. Leon Looney
Dr. & Mrs. Andre Hammonds	Mr. Cleon D. Lucas
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis Hampton	Mr. & Mrs. Eugene Lucas
Mr. & Mrs. Noel A. Hansen	Mrs. Gladys T. Lucas
Mr. & Mrs. Shirley Harvey	Mr. Ronald G. Lucas, M.D.
Mr. & Mrs. Joe & JoeAnn Heater	Mr. & Mrs. Roy A. Lucas
Rev. & Mrs. Stanford Hervey	Mr. & Mrs. James Martin
Mrs. D.A. Hoover	Mrs. Thelma McBride
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Hoover	Mrs. Jessie McClain

Patrons

Mrs. Helen McGroskey	Mr. & Mrs. Maynard Shephard
Mrs. Carol McQueary & Family	Mr. & Mrs. Lemiel Sibley
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Meyers	Mrs. B. Ione Sloss
Mr. Lloyd Mills	Mr. & Mrs. Norlan Smith
Mrs. Clara Mitchem	Mr. & Mrs. William L. Smith
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Moody	Mr. Ray Smith
Mr. Willard Moody	Mr. & Mrs. Minion J. Stanley
Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Nelson	Mr. & Mrs. Solomon Stevens
Mrs. Mary Nolan	Ms. Brenda Stewart
Ms. Gloria Norman	Ms. Mary Stewart
Mr. & Mrs. Thurman Odom	Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Stuart
Mr. Morton Offett, Jr.	Mrs. Margaret Sutton
Mr. Bradley Owens, Jr.	Mrs. Yvonne Sutton & Guest
Mr. & Mrs. Bradley Owens, Sr.	Mr. Joseph H. Taylor, Jr.
Mr. & Mrs. Wallace Owens	Mrs. Sharon Taylor
Mr. & Mrs. J. Allen Parks	Mr. & Mrs. Aaron Thompkins
Mrs. Geneva Parks	Mr. & Mrs. Walter Thomas
Mr. Robert Parrish & Guest	Ms. Patty Turner
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph Pate	Mrs. Theresa Turner
Mrs. Maxine Blake Payne	Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Utey
Mr. & Mrs. Harold L. Penick	Mr. & Mrs. Robert Uzzell
Mr. & Mrs. George Perrelle	Miss Karren K. Waldon
Mr. & Mrs. Leo Phillips	Mr. & Mrs. Thomas G. Waldon,
Mr. & Mrs. Leon Pitts	Jr.
Mrs. Norma H. Pryor	Mr. & Mrs. James Walton
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Ramsey	Mr. & Mrs. Sherley Ward
Dr. & Mrs. Alan Rankin	Mr. & Mrs. Wallace H. Webb, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Phillip C. Raspberry	Drs. Barbara & Jack
Mr. & Mrs. Harold Redlin	Weinbaum
Mr. & Mrs. Jerome Reese	Miss Emma J. Weston, R.N.
Mr. & Mrs. Larry Richardson	Mr. Brian Wilcox
Mr. & Mrs. Herman Roberts	Mr. Steve Wilcox
Mrs. Ellen Robertson	Mr. & Mrs. Theodore B. Wilcox
Mr. James Warren Ross	Mrs. Eddie L. Williams &
Mr. & Mrs. Edward Russell	Guest
Mr. & Mrs. Loren Russell	Mr. & Mrs. MacArthur Williams
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Russell	Mrs. Flora Waldon
Mr. & Mrs. Stanley Russell	Mrs. Bessie Wigfall
Mrs. Anita Rutledge	Mr. & Mrs. Homer Wilford
Mrs. Ethel Upthegrove Robinson	Mr. & Mrs. John H. Williams
Mr. & Mrs. J.C. Rutledge	Miss Janice Williams
Dr. & Mrs. Charles Scott	Mrs. Theresa Williams
Mrs. Maybelle Shackelford	Mr. & Mrs. Felix Winston
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph G. Shacklee	Mr. Guy Winston
	Miss Cleo Worrell

BEST WISHES
FOX GROCERY
6051 CLINTON ROAD
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

COMPLIMENTS
OF
SOROR LOTTIE B. ROBINSON

BEST WISHES
REV. & MRS. S.O. JONES
SPRUCE STREET AME CHURCH

CONGRATULATIONS
E.V. HALT, PRINCIPAL
SOUTH VIGO HIGH SCHOOL

CONGRATULATIONS
FROM
DETROIT, MICHIGAN

MR. & MRS. DUVALL GREEN
MR. & MRS. OLIVER NUNNELLY

BEST WISHES
FROM
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS
MR. & MRS. JOSEPH BREWER
MR. HERBERT WILLIAMS

GARY, INDIANA SORORS OF ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA

SORORITY, INC. SALUTE

ALPHA ETA OMEGA CHAPTER

ON YOUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Mrs. Helen Anderson
Dr. & Mrs. Haron Battle
Mrs. Earnestine Ballard
Mr. & Mrs. Samuel Brooks
Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Browne
Mr. & Mrs. Archie Campbell
Mr. & Mrs. Archie Campbell
Mrs. Celeste Carter
Mr. & Mrs. Herman Chambers
Dr. & Mrs. Cecil Cox
Mr. & Mrs. Robert Deal
Mr. & Mrs. Adria Goudeaux
Miss Florine Gray
Mrs. Mary Gloria Griffith
Mrs. Clytee Gibbs
Dr. & Mrs. Benjamin Grant
Mrs. Helen Holliday
Mrs. Gladys Johnson
Mr. & Mrs. Roy Jordon
Mr. & Mrs. Levers Mack

Mrs. Ollie Mackey
Mrs. Mabel McCants
Mr. & Mrs. Frederick McLaurin
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Pulliam
Mr. Mamon Powers, Sr.
Mr. & Mrs. Clarence Reeves
Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence Rice
Mrs. Velma Richardson
Rev. & Mrs. Samuels
Mr. & Mrs. John D. Smith
Mrs. Vera Swan
Mr. & Mrs. James Taylor
Mr. & Mrs. Victor Thornton
Mr. & Mrs. Clement Watkins
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Wells
Mr. & Mrs. David Williams
Mr. & Mrs. William Wimbley
Mrs. Mary Young

COMPLIMENTS

OF

ORPHEUM HAIR

IMAGINEERS, INC.

110 NORTH SEVENTH STREET

TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA 47807

GREETINGS

LITTLE PEOPLE, LTD.
1704 SOUTH EIGHTH STREET
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA 47802
PHONE-232-2234

'CLOTHES OF DISTINCTION
FOR LITTLE PEOPLE'

FOR THE UNUSUAL
IN FASHIONS FOR
GIRLS AND BOYS

LENNOX

AIR CONDITIONING



Paitson Bros.

Hardware - Heating - Plumbing - Sporting Goods

Wabash At Twelfth

Terre Haute, Ind. 47807

Phone 232-2332

SINCE 1922

BEST WISHES

FURNITURE UPHOLSTERING

PHONE- 894-2820

HELEN RANKIN

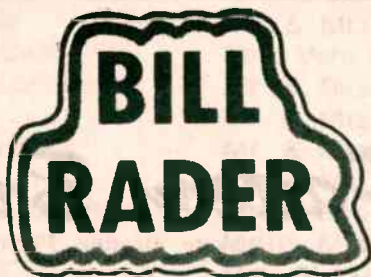
FREE ESTIMATES
PICK UP AND DELIVERY

CONGRATULATIONS TO
ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA
ON THEIR
50TH ANNIVERSARY

FROM



TERRE HAUTE, IN
DANVILLE, IL
MATTOON, IL



SHELL SERVICE



**OFFICIAL
VEHICLE
INSPECTION
STATION**
LICENSED TO INSPECT

301 S. 7th AT POPLAR
Most Popular Corner
In Terre Haute
For Over 25 Years

- AUTOMOBILE AIR
CONDITIONING &
RADIATOR SERVICE
- BRAKE SERVICE
- WHEELS BALANCED

- SUN ELECTRONIC
TUNE-UPS
- ELECTRICAL REPAIR
- SHOCK ABSORBERS

232-9192

OR 232-3144

WRECKER SERVICE



ROAD



SERVICE

CONGRATULATIONS

TO

**ALPHA ETA OMEGA CHAPTER,
ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.
ON YOUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY
'MAY GOD CONTINUE TO BLESS YOU'.**

**YOUNG WOMEN IN ACTION FOR CHRIST
ST. PAUL BAPTIST CHURCH
MEETINGS FOR BIBLE STUDY:
TUESDAYS AT 5:30 P.M.**

CONGRATULATIONS

TO

**ALPHA ETA OMEGA CHAPTER
ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY**

ON

**YOUR FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY
DR. AND MRS. WESLEY J. LYDA**

COMPLIMENTS

OF

**BETHLEHEM
CHAPTER #6
ORDER OF THE
EASTERN STAR**

WORTHY MATRON-ANNA HAMPTON

SECRETARY-FRANCES MILLS

**BEST WISHES
ALPHA ETA OMEGA
CHAPTER, ALPHA
KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY
FOR YOUR 50TH
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION**

DARNES LODGE # 4 F. & A.M.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER

CURTIS L. HAMPTON

SECRETARY-THOMAS G. WALDON, JR.

**GOOD LUCK ON YOUR
50TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION**

**EPSILON XI CHAPTER
ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.**

**INDIANA STATE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA 47809**

CONGRATULATIONS

**PRINCE HALL LODGE
#16 F & A.M.
900 SOUTH 14TH STREET
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA 47807
232-7800**

**RICHARD O. TAYLOR, W.M.
LEONARD HANDLEY, S.W.
GENERAL TAYLOR, J.W.**

"Our Home - Your Home In Time of Bereavement"

"Complete - Competent - Courteous. Service"

BELL and BRACKEN FUNERAL HOME

ALFREDA BUCKNER, Co-Proprietress

DAVID COOK, JR., Co-Proprietor and Director

Lady Attendants - Notary Public

PHONE 232-1223

630 GILBERT AVE.

TERRE HAUTE, IN.

The New

RUSSELL FUNERAL HOME

Has For Your Convenience A Beautiful Air-Conditioned Chapel

Selection Room With Caskets & Garments -

Designed To Provide A Memorable Service

ROBERT L. RUSSELL, Director & Owner

PHONE 232-8422

419 North 21st Street

Terre Haute, Indiana

CONGRATULATIONS

**HAAG DRUG
TWO LOCATIONS
1110 LOCUST STREET
9 TO 9 DAILY**

232-3331

and

600 WABASH AVENUE

8:30-8:30 DAILY

NOON-6:00 SUNDAY

232-2308

**BEST WISHES
FROM
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA**

MR. & MRS. OTIS WILLINGHAM

**CONGRATULATIONS
ERMISCH CLEANERS
AND SHIRT FACTORY
POPLAR STREET AT SIXTEENTH
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA 47807
232-5019**

COMPLIMENTS OF

**NATIONAL TAILORS CO.
CUSTOM TAILORING
D. EWING, PROPRIETOR**

**11 SOUTH 6TH STREET
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA 47807
232-6153**

**CONGRATULATIONS
FROM
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY**

MR. & MRS. JAMES N. FRAZIER

CONGRATULATIONS

FROM

THE SCHULTZ STORES

COMPLIMENTS OF

**HERITAGE LIQUORS
2121 LAFAYETTE AVENUE
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA**

**224 NORTH MARKET STREET
WEST TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA**

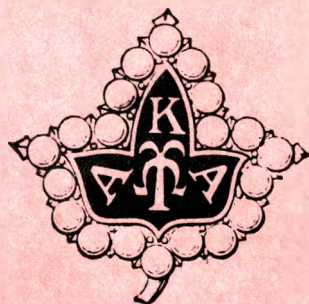
NATIONAL ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SONG

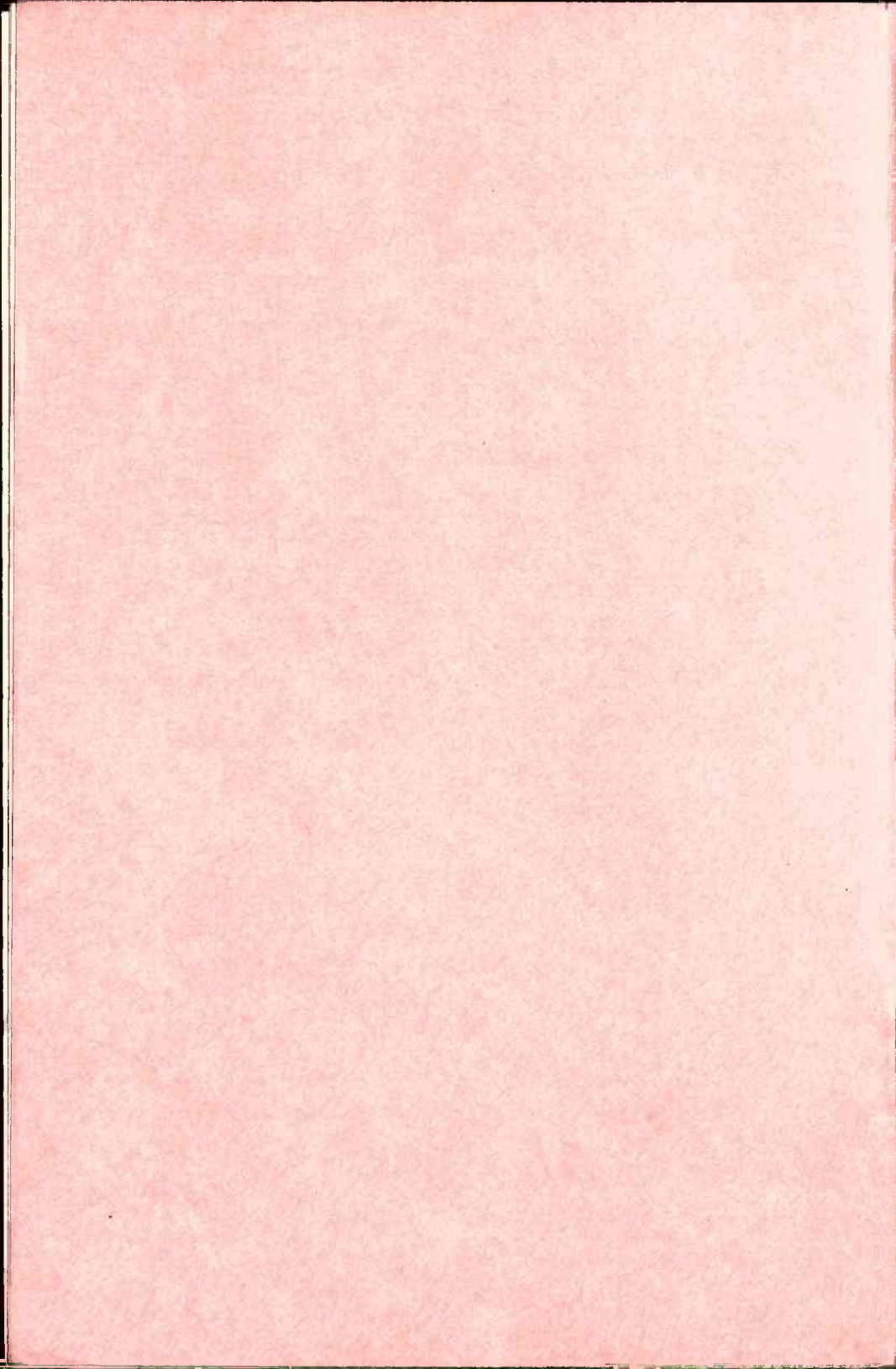
Through the years as we struggle
With main and with might
To capture a vision fair,
There is one thing that spurs us to victory's height
With a fellowship sincere and rare

CHORUS

Oh, Alpha Kappa Alpha; Dear Alpha Kappa Alpha,
Hearts that are loyal and hearts that are true
By merit and culture, we strive and we do
Things that are worthwhile, and with a smile
We help each other, for we know there's no other
Like our sisterhood, Alpha Kappa Alpha.

So together anew we'll pledge our faith
And united we'll forge away,
Greater laurels to win, greater tasks to begin
For thy honor and glory today.





1999

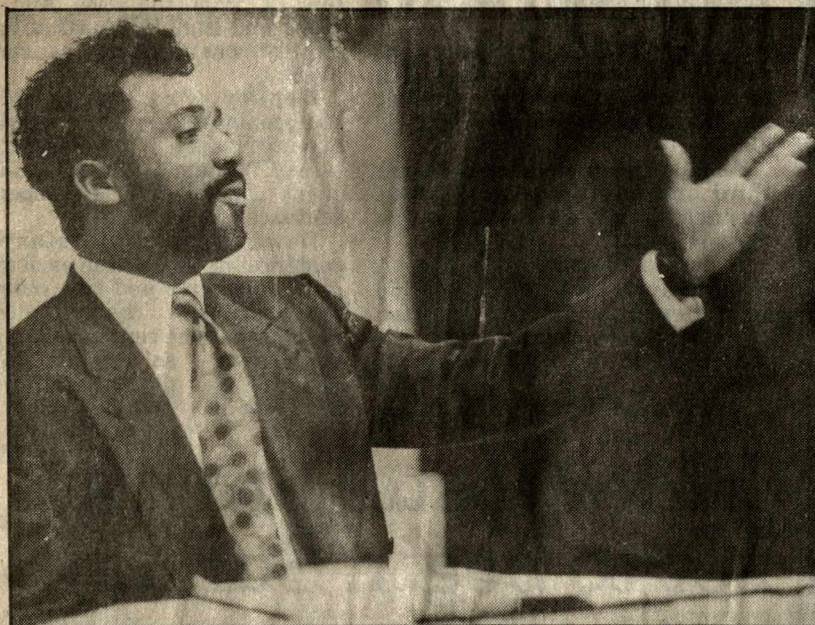
not good

Brown says status of blacks locally

V Afro-Americans (W)

OCT 06 1990

By Sue Loughlin
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter



Tribune-Star/Bob Poynter

Charles Brown didn't paint a pretty picture of the status of blacks in Terre Haute on Wednesday.

"I'm not giving a pretty picture because the picture is not pretty," Brown told about 40 persons gathered for a program at United Ministries Center on "Black-White Relations on Campus and in the Community."

Brown is director of Indiana State University's Afro-American Cultural Center.

He said about 4,000 blacks live in Terre Haute. Yet few blacks own businesses, and few agencies serve blacks. He estimated only 200 blacks hold professional jobs.

He said he knows many blacks in Terre Haute, and "just a handful have decent jobs." Many work for the minimum wage, making just enough to buy food and pay bills. Many are unemployed.

In a sense, "we're still dealing with survival," he said, with people living from paycheck to paycheck.

Concerning the status of black-white relations in the community, he said, "the truth is — there are no relations. How many of you

live next door to someone who is black. How many blacks are in your neighborhood block ... We've got to communicate."

He told members of the audience to drive around some of the black neighborhoods in town, near Liberty, Spruce and Tippecanoe streets north of Wabash, or near 13th and 13½ streets south of Wabash. He told them to look at the housing, cars, and number of youths on the street.

He said people would be "amazed" at the number of kids not going to school.

Brown said many things can be done to improve the status of blacks, and to improve black-white relations.

People need to donate services and funding. He suggested two agencies which could benefit are Hyte Center and Rose Southside Child Care Center.

He said there is a "need to go back," not to the bad times when prejudice and segregation prevailed, but to the tradition of giving.

"There's too much me-ism," Brown said. People say they are too busy to get involved, but "are we really that busy?"

In the 1960s and early 1970s, blacks helped bring about changes by actively demanding changes. Referring to the squeaky wheel, he said, "My God, do we have to squeak all the

Gestures: Charles Brown talks to crowd at United Ministries.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

time? I guess so."

Brown said the community needs to find a way to recruit more black professionals here — including lawyers, doctors and educators.

Business and industry must make an investment in hiring minorities, and developing programs to re-train and re-educate them when needed. Mentors — both black and white — are needed to help black youths complete their education and find employment.

Brown said employers should consider hiring black youths to give them experience and help them learn work skills.

Investment to improve the status of minorities is crucial, and change is imperative both locally and nationally.

In the year 2000, Brown said 85 percent of the workforce will be minorities. "It makes good business sense to say we must invest in the future of our kids."

Maryalyce McDavid said that fighting racism is one of the most difficult problems society faces, and one of the most important ones. "But it comes from the heart; you can't legislate feelings," she said.

McDavid urged those attending to "stand up and be counted when it makes a difference."

Tuskegee airmen recall integration of forces

Afro-Americans (w)

By George W. Warden **FEB 10 3 1988**
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

Black History Month flew into Terre Haute South Vigo High School on Tuesday in the form of two Tuskegee airmen who had helped integrate the armed forces during World War II.

The program was sponsored by the "Racers" of the Indiana Air National Guard's 181st Tactical Fighter Group, based at Hulman Regional Airport.

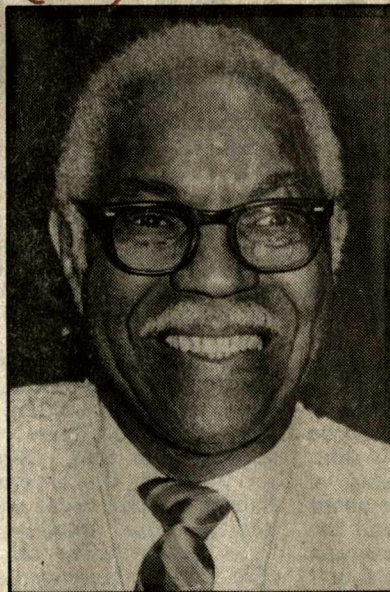
After a long battle within government, Tuskegee airmen were finally allowed to train in and fly military aircraft. They trained at Tuskegee Institute in Alabama in Stearman training craft after the the U.S. Army Air Force chose the southern school over Chanute Air Base in Illinois.

The program at South Vigo High School was conducted by Master Sgt. Stony Dodson, the 181st's outreach program director, and consisted of a videotape of black pilots in action during the African, Italian and European campaigns in World War II.

Walter Palmer and retired Lt. Col. Armour McDaniel, both of Indianapolis and two of the six remaining members of the Indiana Charter of the Tuskegee Airmen, spoke to history classes at South Vigo. They recounted their experiences with racism, war and goals.

But all was not grim. Palmer, 66, recalled how he led a three-plane flight while training in Michigan.

"I remembered that some of my Tuskegee friends were playing football that day at Detroit's Briggs



WALTER PALMER
Remembers buzzing field

Stadium," Palmer said. "I decided I would let my friends know that I was in the area, so I led the flight about 150 feet over the stadium. Well, that wasn't enough, so while the other two returned to base, I flew over the stadium again while doing a barrel roll."

Palmer said an Army Air Force colonel was in the stands.

"He turned me in," Palmer said. "I was grounded and confined to quarters. I was scared to death they would take my wings away from me. But they didn't and I got to go overseas."

Turning to the subject of racism, McDaniel, 71, said that discrimination in the service was severe before and during the war.



ARMOUR McDANIEL
Defends his only country

"I had two enemies to contend with during the war — the Germans and racism," he said.

"I was asked after I got home from the war why I bothered to defend this country," said McDaniel, who went on to make a career of the Air Force and flew Douglas C-54 Skymasters during the Korean War. "My reply was that this is my country. It's the only country I know, and I'll fight to the death to defend it."

Palmer said, "We want to bring the message to all young people, and particularly young blacks. Many things are possible with hard work and perseverance. We see ourselves as possible role models for them."

1988
Vigo County Public Library

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

1988

Black pilots excelled in '40s

Tuskegee Airmen flew best fighter planes

afro american (w)

FEB 06 1968
By George W. Wardell.
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

Nobody thought they could do it — nobody who was white, that is. Being black in the '40s presented special problems, and learning to fly was not in the province of the blacks of that day.

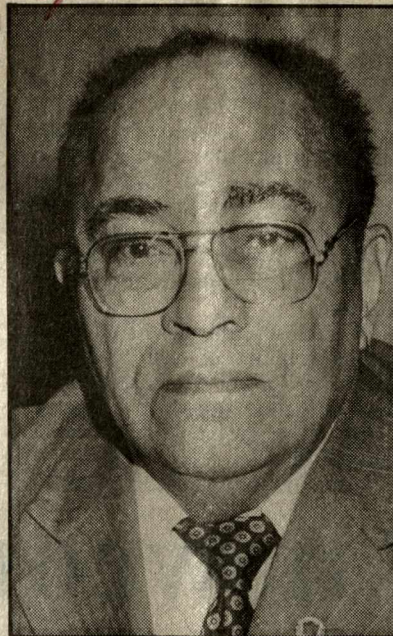
But the rush of the civil rights movement, credited to the era of the '60s, might have begun two decades earlier.

And it might have begun with the Tuskegee Airmen — blacks trained as military pilots who eventually ended up in the sands of Africa, the dust of Italy and the maelstrom that was World War II Europe. They proved they had the ability to fly the best fighter aircraft of the day.

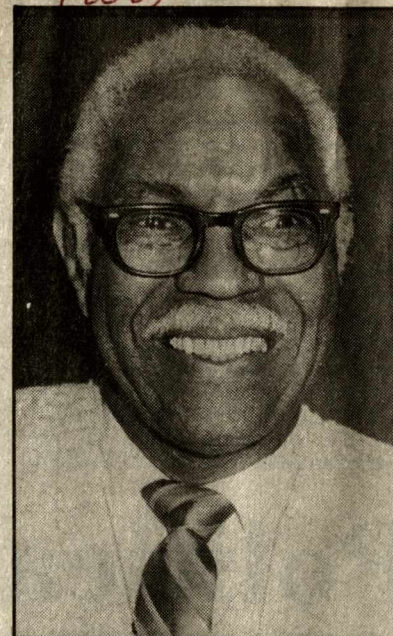
Men like Charles B. Hall of Brazil, who became the first black to down an enemy aircraft; like Armour McDaniel, who was shot down by a jet fighter and sat out the last month of the war in a POW camp; like Walter Palmer, who wanted to saw off the tail of a German fighter because his guns were jammed; or like John J. Suggs, Terre Haute's own Tuskegee Airman, now a Washington D.C. resident, who went on to make a career of the Air Force and fight in three wars.

Other pathfinders were: Judge William H. Hastie, the civilian aide to the secretary of war on black affairs; then-Sen. Harry S. Truman, who championed black efforts to take a more active role in the war; and Lt. Col. Benjamin O. Davis Jr., who won a West Point commission that the Cadet Corps tried to deny him by giving him the silent treatment for four years. Davis' father became the first black general in the U.S. Army.

The Tuskegee Airmen grew out of an experiment by the U.S. Army Air Force to see if blacks could handle the complex fighter aircraft.



ARMOUR MCDANIEL
Was POW



WALTER PALMER
Guns jammed

Airmen presentations set

February is Black History Month, and in an effort to attract minorities into Air National Guard units, the 181st Tactical Fighter Group, based at Hulman Regional Airport, has planned a series of presentations on the Tuskegee Airmen. The presentations will be available to schools and groups during February.

MSgt. Stony Hodson, outreach program director, said at least 35 presentations have been scheduled, many of which are given several times at the same location.

Presentations scheduled so far are: Clay Cith High School, Feb. 8; Meridian Elementary School in Brazil, and the Indiana State ROTC, Feb. 9; Ouabache Elementary School, Feb. 10; West Vigo High School, Feb. 12; U.S. Penitentiary, Feb. 17; and Eastside Elementary School in Brazil, Feb. 18.

They were fully expected to fail.

The blacks who trained at Moton Airfield near Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, were isolated and generally ignored by the powers

who could put them in the limelight. But perseverance finally paid off, and black fighter pilots got their chance.

In the beginning, they shuffled

between mundane duties such as flying coastal patrols. They were truly the Lonely Eagles.

Both Palmer and McDaniel went to Italy, Palmer to the 100th Fighter Squadron, based at Capodichino, just outside of Naples, and McDaniel to the 301st at Montecivino, south of Salerno.

Both flew Republic P-47 Thunderbolts for a short time, then moved to the North American P-51 Mustang, then considered the world's top front-line fighter. Both are holders of the Distinguished Flying Cross and Air Medals, and both scored one kill during combat.

Palmer said he downed one Me-109 and was ready for a second when his guns jammed.

"I dove after him, and I was going to cut his tail off with my prop, but he got away," he said.

McDaniel also splashed a Me-109, but said he flew mostly escort duty for bombers, patrols and ground support.

The 100th and 301st, along with 99th and 302nd squadrons, comprised the 332 Fighter Group, and were known as the Red Tails because the tails of their P-51s were painted red.

The black units flew 15,553 sorties and 1,578 missions, 200 of which were heavy bomber escorts over such places as Berlin and the Rhineland, never losing a bomber to enemy fighters. They destroyed or damaged 409 enemy aircraft, making the last four kills of the Mediterranean campaign, and accounted for three of Germany's new jet fighter, the Me-262. In all some 900 black pilots trained at Tuskegee, and 450 pilots served in the 332nd, which earned a presidential citation on March 23, 1945.

Another black pilot, Charles Hall, the Brazil native who died in 1971 in Oklahoma City, brought a sense of pride to all Tuskegee airmen when he became the first black to down a Nazi plane.

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

DO NOT CIRCULATE

1989

NAACP puts ISU under microscope

By Sue Loughlin
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

13 APR 18 1989

Reports of racial disturbances at college campuses across Indiana have prompted the Indiana branch of the NAACP to conduct hearings on the extent of the problem.

The third of six hearings by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was conducted at Indiana State University on Monday.

Once hearings are concluded, a task force will make a report and provide recommendations, which will be forwarded to Gov. Evan Bayh and universities by fall.

Arthur Jordan, chairman of the NAACP's state education committee, said the state organization has read about various incidents in recent years, including harassment, mistreatment, cross burnings and beatings.

In October, "we decided someone needed to

take responsibility for looking at this issue," Jordan said during a press conference.

Jordan said the NAACP hopes the report and recommendations will lead to changes in policies and funding for programs "to help sensitize university officials, staff and students about racial harassment" so it can be eliminated.



JORDAN

the policies of the Reagan administration, which the NAACP hopes will change now.

Universities need to take a hard line against racism and have policies intolerant of it, he said.

Universities appear to lack "real serious policies" addressing the problem.

At ISU, he referred specifically to the Shawn Pruitt incident last fall, in which a black student was beaten by white students. The task force talked to university officials in private, and also to Pruitt during the hearing.

The task force is conducting hearings at four state-supported colleges — Indiana University, Purdue University, ISU and Ball State University — and two private institutions, DePauw University and Wabash College.

The research won't stop there. "We'll visit as many schools as we can" before preparing the report, Jordan said. The task force will also ask universities for data and statistics.

Jordan said he was troubled by the attitude of one of the college presidents, who said a university is a microcosm of society.

Universities should be better than society in general because they are a center for educated, intelligent persons, Jordan said. Also, they train tomorrow's leaders.

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Vigo County Public Library

1989

ISU ready to end racial problems

✓ Afro-Americans (WU)
13 APR 19 1989
By Sue Loughlin
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

An Indiana State University spokesman said Tuesday that ISU will work with any concerned organization to help eliminate racial problems that may exist on campus.

Joel Lonergan, director of university relations, sat in on a hearing Monday conducted by the state chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

"We hope something good will come out of [the hearing]," he said. "I don't think we ever denied there were racial problems on campus. We will work with any group to bring about an end to [problems]

and to make the campus hospitable to all minorities. Hopefully, this will be a start."

The NAACP task force conducted a five-hour hearing in Terre Haute in an effort to try to determine the extent of racial problems on Indiana college campuses. Hearings are scheduled at four public and two private institutions.

A report and recommendations will be forwarded to the governor's office, hopefully by fall, said Art Jordan, chairman of the NAACP's state education committee.

Lonergan said the ISU community hopes the hearings will ultimately lead to more state funding for programs that benefit minorities, as well as greater awareness on Indiana's college campuses.

The task force requested and received detailed information from

ISU relating to black enrollment, programs, affirmative action, the code of student conduct and other areas.

"We hope the task force will come back and share their findings, and we'll work with them" to try to make improvements, he said.

The university acknowledges there is a need for more black faculty and staff, he said. There are nine full-time black faculty members at ISU.

The university has also requested state funding for a new pilot minority student mentor program.

Lonergan said ISU's revised general-education program, which takes effect in the fall, has a requirement for five hours of multicultural studies.

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Community Affairs File

Vigo County Public Library

Wiley grad takes up Brown's cause

Chili Most records tribute to 'Godfather of Soul'

1990 AUG 2

By Liz Carver

Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

Hollywood musician Chili Most, a 37-year-old Terre Haute native, is waging an emotional campaign through his recently recorded single, "Free James Brown," to free his mentor because he believes the music pioneer was given a bad rap.

Most, whose family roots and musical background are in Terre Haute, wants to get to all his "homeys" — or friends — through the tribute to the "Godfather of Soul" recorded recently on a Life Records label.

He says that Brown, serving concurrent six-year jail terms meted out by Georgia and South Carolina for fleeing police and other charges, is wrongly imprisoned — and deserves a little more R-E-S-P-E-C-T.

After all, Brown did influence the music industry with 38 gold and platinum records, 114 single hits and 5,500 songs — and he participated heavily in the 1960s civil rights movement with numerous efforts of fighting racism and helping to keep the peace, Most said.

"Mister James Brown came from a seventh-grade education, and he did miracles with it. No one else in the business can compare."

Brown now is serving time for aggravated assault and weapons violations after he led police through two states on a high-speed chase that at one point involved 14 vehicles. He is freer than when first imprisoned in December 1988, but his application for extended work-release recently was turned down. "He's done a lot of good things people may have overlooked. I hope to raise the public consciousness with this song," Most said. "I grew up in the '60s when Mister James Brown was one of the



Native: Former Terre Hautean Chili Most, middle, Zillion Most and Michael Nash want James Brown freed.

hottest artists in the business. He had a profound effect on my development as a musician — and it was a sad day in my life when he went to jail."

In "Free James Brown," Most devotes his lyrics to "the contributions [James Brown] made not only as an entertainer, but as a person," he said. Most believes Brown was used as an example by prosecutors who gave him "an awfully stiff sentence for a blue-light chase."

He is mustering all the support he can to awaken people to his cause.

"First, we got over 100 businesses in L.A. together for a petition drive to show support in numbers for the freedom of James Brown. We got over 60,000 signatures — that shows a lot of

support in the country," Most said.

"Then we took it a step further. We went to the NAACP of Hollywood to endorse the campaign, and I wrote the song in June of 1989." Most recorded the song with a little help from his homeys who are members of "Rolls Royce" — the group that recorded the title sound track to the movie "Car Wash" — and a saxophone player who records with "Earth, Wind and Fire."

The Inglewood South Bay Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, near where Most now lives with his mother, has fully supported the "National Free James Brown Campaign." Radio stations in southern states have played the tune since its recording, but it so

far has not reached many other states, Most said. "If you listen to my records, you'll notice that most of my rhythm is influenced by Mister James Brown. And a lot of artists have taken different parts of his music and incorporated it into theirs.

"He's influenced every artist since his time in rhythm and blues, soul, funk, disco and now rap."

But Brown's musically explosive talents are not the end of the extent to which Most admires him. "On a tour in 1968, he did five shows a week just to show he was for real. He has entertained the troops in Vietnam — and when Dr. Martin Luther King died in 1968, there were many riots.

"He went from city to city stopping those riots, trying to make people remember the love shown by Dr. King. He was the pulse of the community; people listened to him more than anyone else at the time," Most said. Most's own upbringing in the Midwest was one of all-American boyhood, he said. He described a transition from singing in church choirs to playing in garage bands to performing for colleges across the Wabash Valley.

A Wiley High School graduate and the youngest child in his family, Most left Terre Haute at age 18 to pursue his musical career, but still strongly believes in the small-town values he grew up with in Terre Haute.

"Basically being raised in the Midwest, I have the different values which are a good basis for people to use to interact with others. I always have a message in my music — of course, it's something you can dance to — at the same time, it instills some of my knowledge to the kids about what's good and what's bad. I know my music will always be influenced by Mister James Brown. "He knows of my support. It's a tribute to him."

1991

African-Americans (wv)

Black history on display

15 FEB 04 1991

The February display at the Vigo County Public Library celebrates Black History Month by celebrating the sense of community fostered by several black organizations.

Archival materials from the library's Community Archives Collection about the NAACP, four local churches, Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority and Hyte Community Center are included in the display.

Susan Dehler, special collections archivist and originator of the display, said, "I wanted to call attention to how much these organizations provided a sense of community to their members as well as contributing to the community at large."

Dehler added the library has only a small collection of materials from the black community and would like to have more. "We would welcome anything of an historical nature, such as photographs, minutes, correspondence, and newsletters from local clubs and organizations or from individuals, and the donor would know the material would be preserved for future generations."

The display includes an original invitation and program for the dedication of the new Hyte Center on July 1, 1972. Dehler said the cooperative effort of many in-

dividuals, organizations, and governmental units made the new facility possible to better serve the needs of the entire community. Over the years, the Hyte Community Center has provided recreational facilities, health services, legal aid, tutoring, counseling, and classes to all people of Terre Haute.

The library display also features copies of "The Searcher," the official publication of the Terre Haute NAACP. The local branch was organized in 1918, and its members have worked consistently and determinedly since then for the elimination of racial barriers, more opportunities in work and education, and the lowering of barriers in places of public accommodation.

Photos of the historical Allen AME Chapel, the Lost Creek Missionary Baptist Church and some of their early pastors are in the display. Both churches served as stations on the Underground Railroad.

Alpha Kappa Alpha, a national sorority, was formed in 1908 at Howard University to develop a sense of community among black college women. The local chapter, Alpha Eta Omega, was founded in 1928, and personal memorabilia from two of the original charter members, Jane Dabney Shackelford and Evangeline Harris, are in the display.

The local chapter has contributed much to the sense of community, according to Dehler, citing their financial support of different civic organizations, scholarships, and health projects.

In further observance of Black History Month, the library will have a film/discussion program on Feb. 27 in the library at Seventh and Poplar streets. Details will be announced later.

Community Affairs File

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

1991

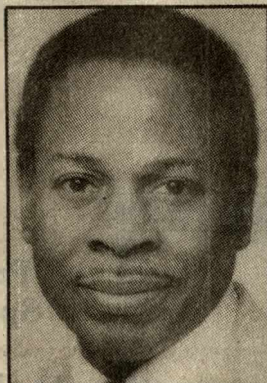
Coalition hopes to aid black students

By Sue Loughlin **Is SEP 16 1991**
Tribune-Star Staff Reporter

A new group has been formed to encourage black youths to do their best while in school — and to stay in school.

The Coalition for African-American Education Committee wants to tell these elementary and secondary students that “we love you enough to encourage you to get the best possible education available to you,” chairman Warren Swindell wrote in a memo to members.

“Several people in the black community recognize that black students are having problems in the school system. Many of us wanted to come together to encourage the



SWINDELL

students to do their best work, have a positive attitude and be cooperative,” Swindell said.

The group began meeting July 2 and meets twice a month. The coalition includes several black churches, lodges, NAACP, American Legion Pioneer Post and some black engineers from Eli Lilly. About 30 people have attended.

Swindell said a program is planned for students and parents from 2 to 6 p.m. Sept. 28 in Hyte Community Center. The student fair, with the theme “back to school/stay in school,” will include contests, rap, cheerleading, quiz show games, basketball and dance. There will be individual and group events, and special activities for elementary students.

The program is for black students at all grade levels. “It’s to let students know there are people who care about them,” Swindell said, “and to encourage them to do their best work.”

Engineers from Eli Lilly will present buttons and T-shirts. He said Lilly has given strong support to the project.

Theressa Bynum said the program will be “lots of fun and festivity, but it will be laced with lots of messages pertaining to the need for

achievement and getting an education to be successful.” The coalition will recognize students who have made some kind of achievement in the past year.

Swindell said a key goal will be to get parents involved in their children’s education.

At the end of the semester and the school year, the coalition will have programs recognizing students for their achievements, whether attendance, academic or otherwise. Hopefully, that positive recognition will “push them to stay in school,” he

The group also wants to start a mentorship program. The goal is to pair black adults with students, both male and female. The adults would get to know the students and encourage them. The coalition hopes to get the program going by the end of October.

Bynum said the coalition formed as the result of a concern with low numbers of blacks in Vigo County high schools. “The numbers were very low, much lower than we had realized” last semester. “Our concern is, what’s happening to these students?” she said.

Community Affairs File

VIGO COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

REFERENCE
DO NOT CIRCULATE

Lack of blacks in law not just local problem

African-Americans (w)

TS OCT 8 1992

By John Wright

Tribune-Star

White judge. White attorneys.
Black defendant.

It's a familiar scene in court-rooms across America.

No black judges or prosecutors work in Vigo County. And, of the estimated 120 attorneys practicing in the county, only one is black, or .08 percent.

Since blacks comprise 6 percent of the population of Vigo County, their race is under-represented in the local legal profession.

Those numbers, observers say, mean a stacked-deck against blacks when it comes to justice.

Black representation in the local legal system "is a door that needs to be opened," said Theresa Bynum, director of the local chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Bynum believes that door swings on the hinges of acceptance. The under-representation, she believes, is part of a bigger issue of non-acceptance of minorities in many professions.

"The problem of professionals in any field in this community is tied to Terre Haute, itself, and its receptiveness to being supportive of Afro-Americans.

"Many places," Bynum said, "have more visibility of Afro-Americans in these jobs, places that suggest Afro-Americans are a part of the community, as opposed to on the fringe."

Bynum said Terre Haute is competing with other cities that have a "welcome mat" for blacks in the way of social, professional and financial benefits.

The under-representation is even more evident when looking

"The problem of professionals in any field in this community is tied to Terre Haute. . . its receptiveness to being supportive of Afro-Americans."

Theressa Bynum

at the percentages of black inmates. A sampling Sept. 10 showed blacks made up 25 percent of the 130 inmates housed at the Vigo County Jail.

Blacks comprise 39 percent of the inmates in the Indiana Department of Correction, said Patty McKinney with DOC Planning & Research.

The lack of minority attorneys exists across America, said Verdeliski Miller, the only black attorney of the estimated 310 attorneys in Vanderburgh County.

"It's not just attorneys — it goes for doctors, engineers, teachers — any profession," Miller said.

However, blacks are going to law school in greater numbers than ever before. At the Indiana University School of Law, better than 8 percent of students this year are black, said Frank Motley of the IU admissions office.

But not many blacks reared in Vigo County are entering law school, Bynum believes. She said that indicates a problem that has to do with young blacks' perception of local opportunities.

For example, minorities in the community do not see many people of their own race teaching, running businesses or working as members of the media, Bynum said.

num said.

Therefore, they will come out of school here and go elsewhere.

Kenneth M. Stanley, 42, is a black attorney who returned to Terre Haute. He graduated from Gerstmeyer High School and Indiana University Law School, and returned to practice law here two years ago.

"I came here because of my feeling for the people of Terre Haute. My desire is to help people and provide some Christian counseling."

Stanley admits he would not have considered locating his law office in Terre Haute had he not been from here. Stanley said he is the first black attorney in the county in 40 years.

Miller, too, returned to his hometown — Evansville — to practice law. The 32-year-old sees the treatment of blacks in the criminal justice system firsthand as a defense attorney.

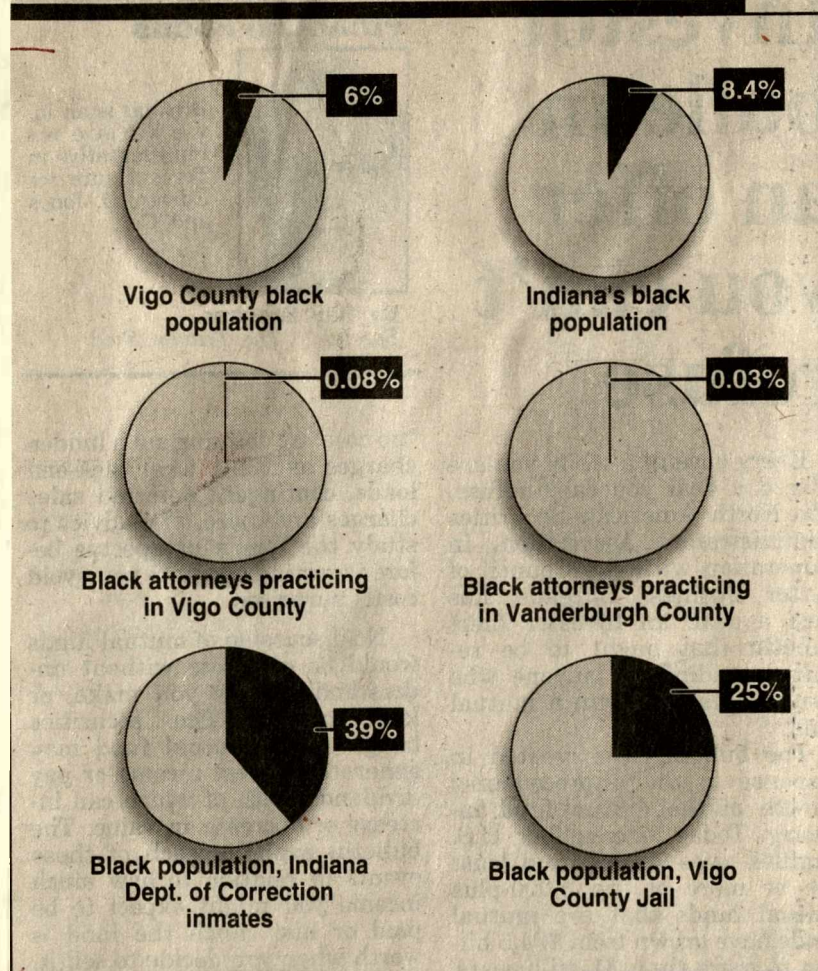
Miller suggested that instead of an under-representation of black attorneys, a bigger concern is an over-representation of blacks in jail. "There's no doubt in my mind blacks have a tendency to taste the bitter end of the criminal justice system," he said.

"The tables are slanted against blacks," Miller said. "You've got a 9 percent black population, but 50 percent of those in jail are black — c'mon, blacks aren't the only ones committing crimes."

"Rodney King," Miller said, "is a perfect example of American justice."

King was the black motorist videotaped while being beaten by police in California. Police were later acquitted of wrongdoing.

Blacks and the law: by the numbers



SOURCES: 1990 Census and the Indiana Dept. of Corrections

Tribune-Star/Doug McSchooler

"That stuff happens *all the time*," Miller said. How can we justify no conviction when the crime was videotaped?"

Miller didn't buy the reasons jurors gave for voting for acquittal in the King case. The real reason, he believes, was prejudice.

"But because of the subjective nature of the legal profession, often the real reasons things happen are hidden," he said.

Bynum said the NAACP has told Vigo County judges it would like to see a black public defender in the county.

"As vacancies occur, we want to ensure those are posted where blacks will have access, like

Bloomington or St. Louis, or anywhere there is a study of law. We'll be glad to be of assistance," Bynum said.

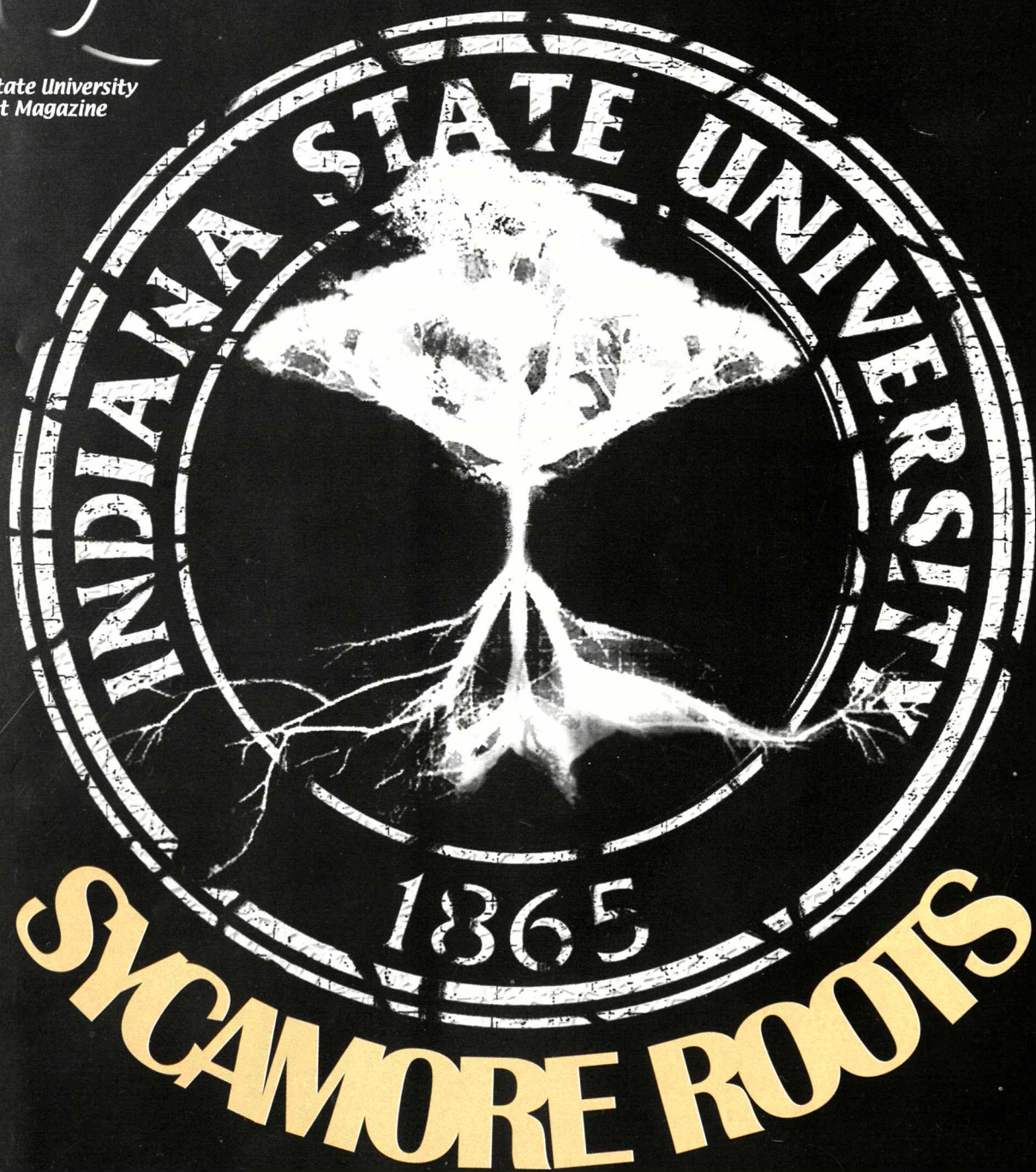
Bynum also said she would like to see "a proactive effort on the part of legal firms to seek to have Afro-Americans as part of their groups."

Such an effort, she believes, might provide the community with its own "welcome mat" to blacks in all professions.

That "welcome mat," she said, would lead to more role models for young blacks here and, perhaps one day, the imbalances will cease.

FREE

Indiana State University
Student Magazine



A look at ISU's black history

Staff

Editor in Chief	Matt Miller
Managing Editor for Content	Sarah Lipps
Managing Editor for Visuals	Bob Herrington
Design Editor	Reuben Davis
Web Editor	Josh Phillips
Copy Editor	Michael Miller
Promoter	Cassandra Connors
Reporters	Ashley Barre Chris Brooks Steven Furlow Emily Miller Precious Ramsey Beth White Rachel Wylly
Photographers	Brandy Emily Joshua P. Judd Evan Greve
Receptionist	Kathy Gaffney Courtney Bonhivert
Student Advertising Manager	Sarah Thistle
Assistant Student Ad Manager	Amanda McFarland
Ad Production Manager	Jon Hueber
Adviser	Merv D. Hendricks
Assistant Adviser	Marcy J. Cook
Business Manager	Stacey L. McCallister
Computer Technician	Dianna Johnson

FEATURES

Cover story

Sycamore roots

ISU's black history is rich with trailblazers, trendsetters and charismatic leaders. **Page 8**

ISU Speaker

A few minutes

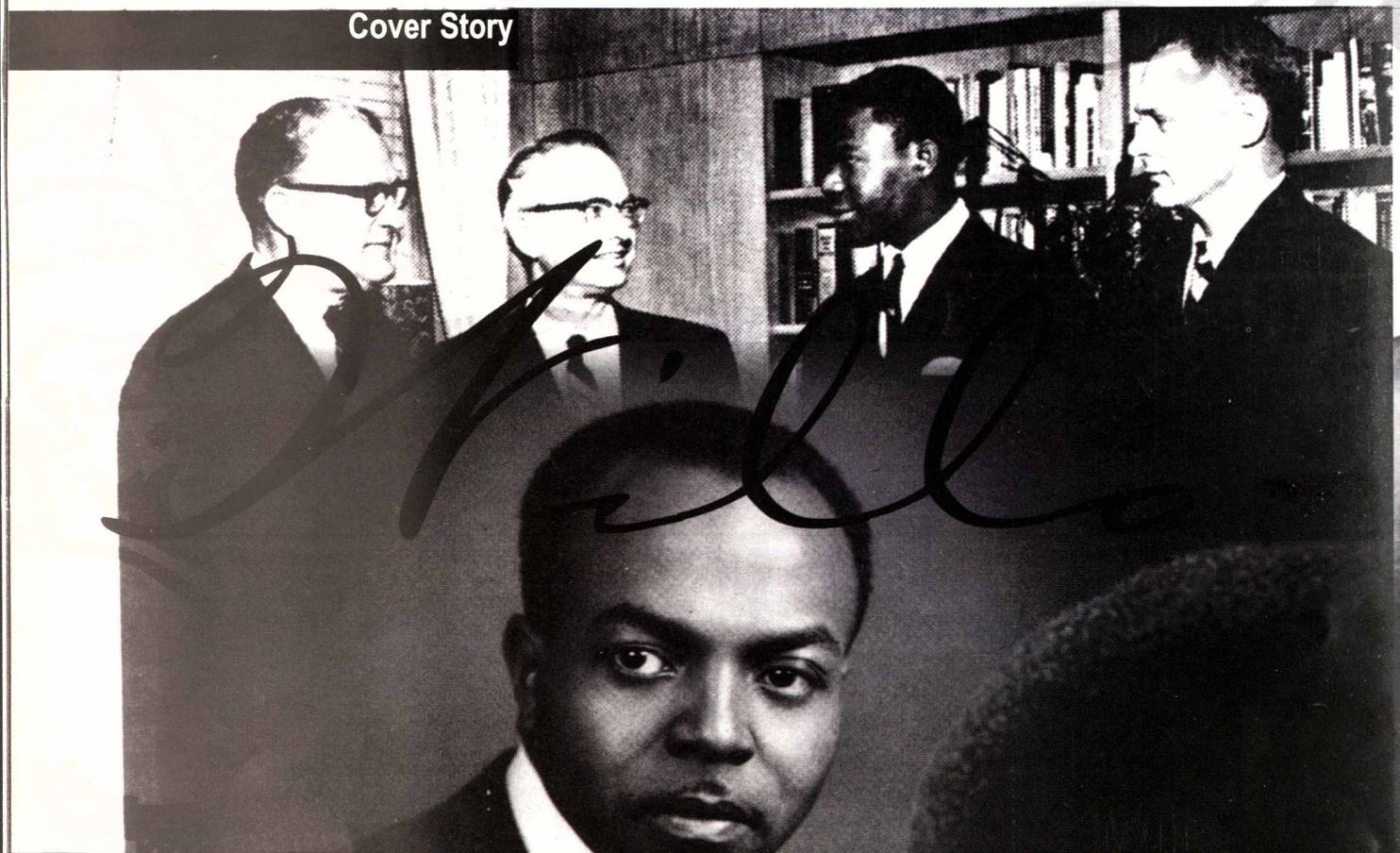
Andy Rooney, who is to speak at ISU in March, tells *iQ* about war buddy Ernie Pyle and college kids. **Page 30**

Basketball

Comeback trail

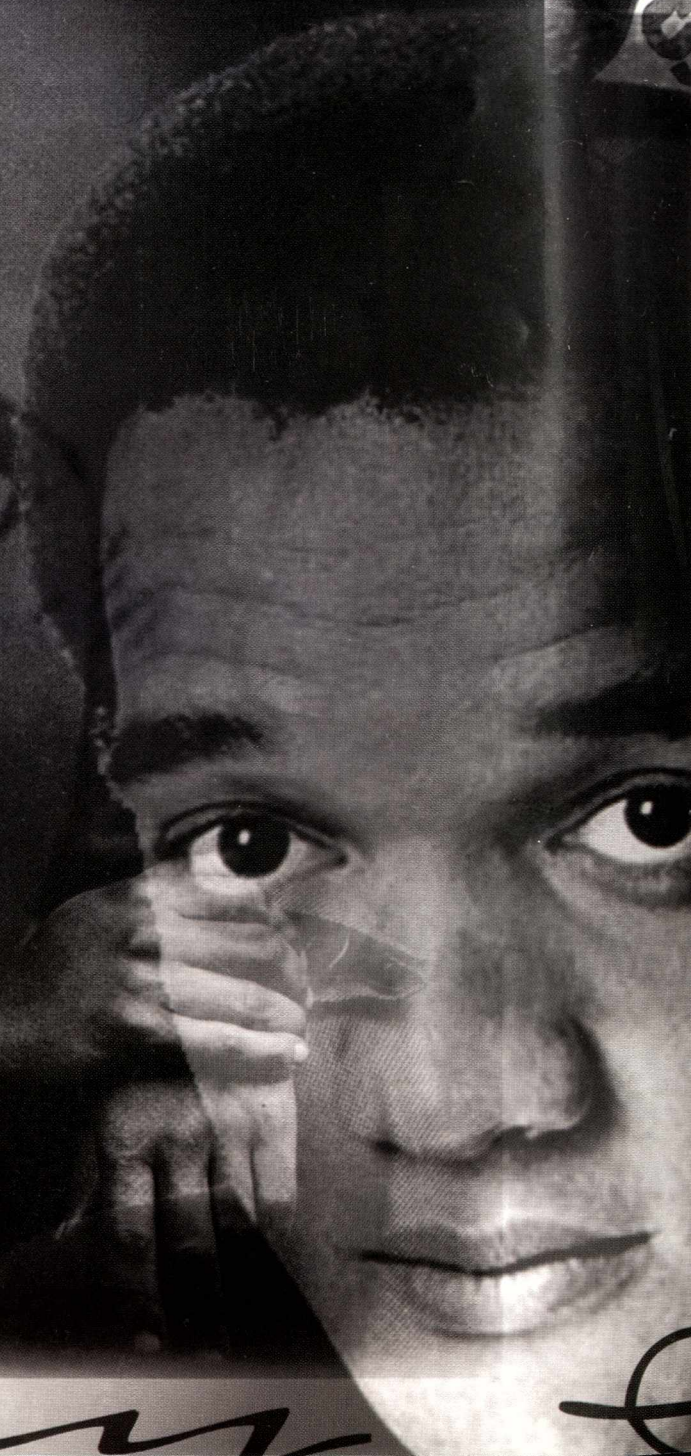
Brian Giesen is playing for ISU again after a knee injury two years ago was thought to end his career. **Page 30**

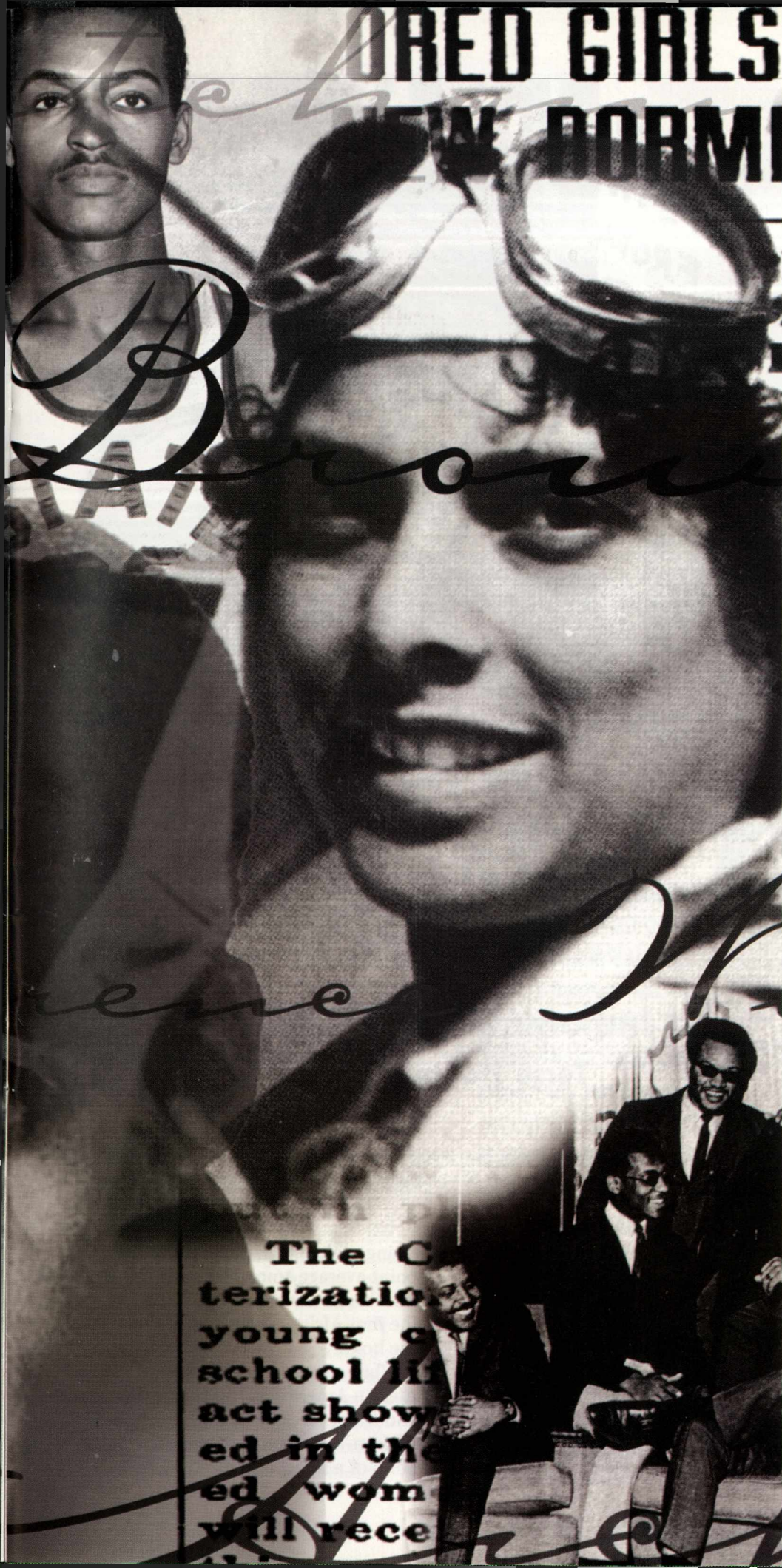
Pictured: Clinton Mitcham, 1947 graduate who was called a "deliberate and unprejudiced thinker" and a "forceful personality" by the Sycamore Yearbook staff, who chose him as one of 14 top campus leaders. He was also listed in "Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities."



OF 10000

COVER STORY





Deep roots in ISU black history

BY EMILY MILLER AND
PRECIOUS RAMSEY
iQ Magazine

In 1946, Clarence Walker was a star on the men's basketball team at ISU. His team, with an 18-7 record, was invited to play in the National Association for Intercollegiate Basketball tourney — all except for Walker. The NAIB wouldn't allow him to play because of his color.

The team, under legendary coach John Wooden, refused to play in a tournament that wouldn't allow every team player a chance to compete.

One year later, the team made the tournament again. This time, the NAIB reconsidered and let Walker play. However, hotels and restaurants wouldn't let him stay. Walker stayed with a local African American family.

The team didn't leave Walker to eat alone; they dined privately with him.

Later, Walker became president of his class and was ranked in the "Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities." However, it was the story of a team ahead of its time that stands out as one of the early equal rights movements by ISU students.

When student activism takes place it can lead to positive change, said Professor James Genova, associate professor of history. Genova said that when students believe in themselves and their cause they work to make changes that happen on campus.

Student activism and a good start have helped to bring more equality to

"Be very serious about our work and take advantage of the opportunities that exist."

— Charlie Brown,
African-American Cultural
Center director

ISU's campus. These stories, as told in "Leadership Response to the Black Student Protest at Indiana State University," a dissertation essay written by Crystal Mikell Reynolds that's one of the most definitive works on black history at ISU, chronicle the journey.

THE EARLY DAYS

ISU was one of the first colleges in the state to allow blacks to enroll. The first African American to attend Indiana State Normal School, which would later be called Indiana State University, was Zachariah M. Anderson in 1870. ISU was not the first school in the country to admit blacks. It was, however, a step ahead of Indiana University, which didn't allow blacks until 1884.

Even though African Americans shared a school with whites, it wouldn't be until 1905-06 when they shared a yearbook. The first two blacks to appear in the yearbook were Margaret G. Price and Flora May Harper, who were pictured side by side. At that point in time, however, the two African-American women were placed in pages behind their white peers, still not given the full attention and rights of white students on campus at that time.

Although African Americans shared classes with whites, at that time no dormitory was available solely for black students. This caused a problem for African-American students because landlords at the time were not



Indiana State University Terre Haute, Indiana

In the '70s, ISU offered a special orientation program for black students to help acclimate themselves to the university. This is the cover of a program distributed during one session. (Photos courtesy of University Archives)

eager to rent to blacks seeking an education.

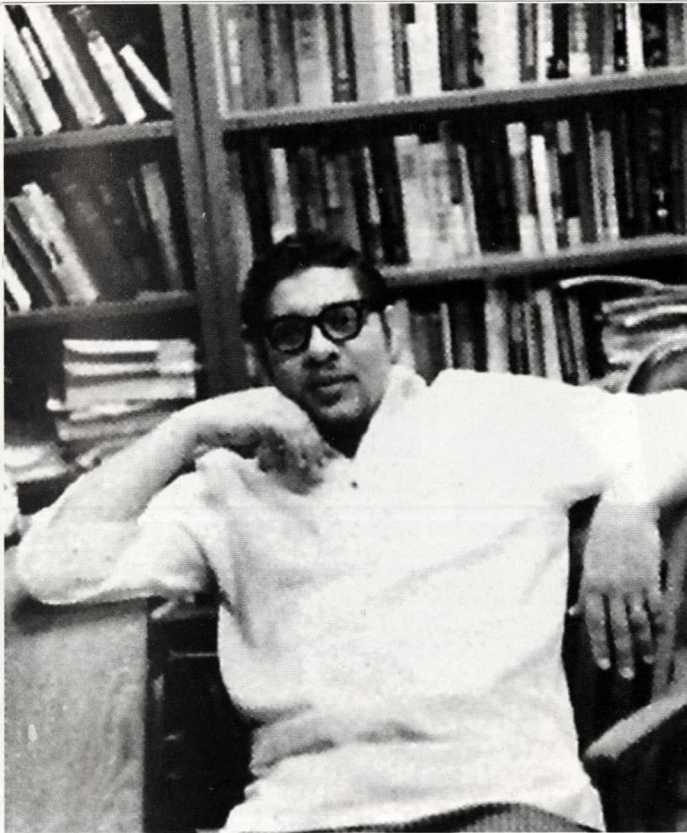
THE ROARING '20S

When flappers danced and Terre Haute was known as "sin city," African-American students at ISU paved the way for future generations.

In 1926, African-American student Warren Anderson received the distinguished Hines Award, given to the let-

tering athlete with the highest grade-point average among students for the last three semesters. Anderson was the first African American to receive the honor.

While some organizations welcomed African Americans, social sororities and fraternities did not. Because African-American students wanted the bond of a social organization, they



Two of ISU's first African-American faculty: James Conyers, a sociology professor from 1962 to 1996, and Andre Hammonds, a sociology professor from 1964 to 1999.

formed AMICITA (Latin for "friendship") in 1920. The organization welcomed both male and female African-American students and served as a social group to bring black students together on campus.

Finally, in 1929, a major event leading to more equality on campus took place. That year the student constitution changed, requiring that an African-American student hold a spot in the student council.

A PLACE TO CALL HOME IN THE '30S

In the '30s many African-American students received attention for scholastic achievements and athletics and were able to call Terre Haute home.

Many clubs and organizations, such as the Y.M.C.A, poet's club and student council, welcomed African-American students. Another, the "I Women" organization, was a top honor for females. Campus events were given point values. A female student who earned enough points by attending numerous events would be named an "I Woman." All females,

ISU's first black student

ISU's relationship with students of African descent dates back to its initial year. The school system was largely segregated at the time; in 1869 the Indiana General Assembly passed a law requiring separate schools for blacks in districts where significant numbers justified them. It was appropriate, therefore, for Indiana State Normal School to prepare African-Americans to teach in the classrooms of African-American schools.

Zachariah M. Anderson was apparently the first black student to attend the new normal

school, enrolling in the first summer session classes of 1870. Anderson was chosen to be the first teacher in the newly established "colored school" located in the African Methodist Episcopal Church on First Street in Terre Haute. The same year that Anderson enrolled at ISU, Edward James Rove, a former black resident of Terre Haute, became the fifth president of Liberia, Africa.

Source: "Leadership Response to the Black Student Protest Movement At Indiana State University," a dissertation by Crystal Mikell Reynolds



Members of Alpha Phi Alpha, one of the first African-American fraternities at ISU, enjoy time together. The chapter was organized on May 9, 1969.

including African-Americans, were eligible for the award.

In 1934 the first dormitory for African American females was opened. Phyllis Wheatley Hall was about a mile from campus on Poplar Street and housed up to 13 women. The long walk was not as convenient as other dormitories. However, the building was an attempt by the university to offer housing for African-American females. No dormitory was ever built specifically for black men.

A MORE CULTURED STAFF

In 1954, Dolly Hoover, the first

African-American professional staff member, started work at the university as the assistant head of catalogs in the library. In 1962, James Conyers was the first black faculty member.

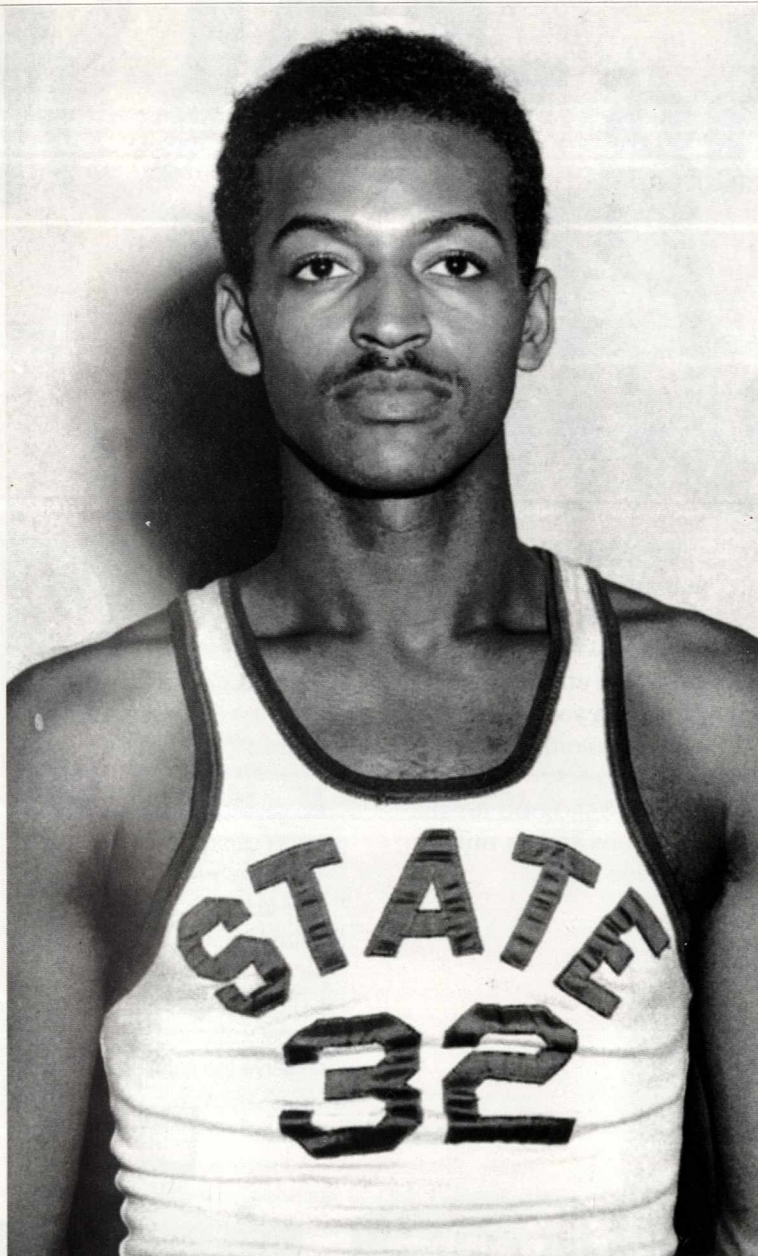
Charlie Brown, director of the African-American Cultural Center, said that there were not as many African Americans on campus in the '60s.

He said that it is important for African-American students to "be very serious about our work and take advantage of the opportunities that exist. Support events like the convocation series. These are good learning

opportunities."

RECENT ORGANIZATIONS

In 1995, a unique organization called Sisters Too was developed by Dorothy Simpson-Taylor. The organization brought African-American women together to help support each other and help the community, current organization president MiCole Winters said. Today, the group is the only Sisters Too organization in existence, although other colleges are looking at adopting a program, she said. It consists primarily



Clarence Walker (left) was denied the chance to play in a collegiate basketball tournament in 1945 because of his color. The team made the tournament the next year, but Walker was denied entrance to hotels and restaurants. He later became president of the ISU student body. Willa Brown (right), one of the first female pilots, attended ISU also.

of African-American students, but it welcomes others, Winters said.

Shortly after Sisters Too began, Black Optimistic Men and Brothers began in 1997 as the brother group of Sisters Too.

"I actually have brothers, not friends, in this organization," said group member Ian Grube. This year, BOMB has worked to help charity organizations including the St. Paul's food kitchen, Grube said.

In 2002 another milestone was met when Kellee Thomas and Kier Hopkins-Smith were the first African

American team elected student government president and vice president.

MORE TO COME

Although rights for African Americans on campus have vastly improved from 1877 to present, there is always room for improvement. "People can't afford to be complacent anymore," said Genova, the associate history professor.

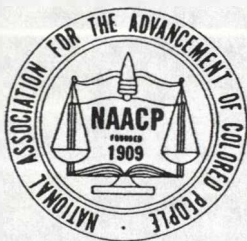
He said that moving from New York to Indiana was a culture shock. He saw displays of confederate flags and hateful bumper stickers. In his teaching experience on campus students have

walked out during class when talking about slavery and refused to do projects that would expose the South.

Genova does not see the Terre Haute community as a hospitable environment for African Americans. "There is quite a bit that can be done in terms of race relations," he said.

Marshall Jones, assistant director of Student Life Programs, said that recruiting more African-American professors would be an example of work that can be done.

"We've made grounds, but there is still work today," Jones said.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

Greater Terre Haute Branch

P.O. Box 441

Terre Haute, Indiana 47808-0441

2008 ANNUAL BRANCH REPORT

by A. Theresa Bynum, Branch President and Executive Committee Chair
December 15, 2008

Officers, Executive Committee Members & Committee Chairs

A. Theresa Bynum	President & Executive Committee Chair
Allegra Allen	1 st Vice President & Prison Support Committee Chair
Rev. Thomas Wood	2 nd Vice President & Legal Redress Committee Chair
Oscar Session	3 rd Vice President & ACT-SO Committee Chair
Martha Jordan	Secretary & Membership/Life Membership Comm Chair
Drucella Thomas	Assistant Secretary & Community Coordination Comm Chair
Mae White	Treasurer & Finance Committee Chair
John E. Lang	Assistant Treasurer & Freedom Fund Committee Chair
Kendall Boyd, Esq.	At Large Member & Parliamentarian
Bettie E. Davis	At Large Member & WIN Committee Chair
Diana Carole Hart	At Large Member & Economic Development Comm Chair
Valerie Hart-Craig	At Large Member & Youth Work Committee Chair
Earle Harvey	At Large Member & Press & Publicity Committee Chair
Herley Johnson	At Large Member & Labor & Industry Committee Chair
Charles Norman	At Large Member
Muriel Ryan	Political Action Committee Chair
Ann Smith	At Large Member & Education Committee Chair

To: NAACP Branch Members

CC: NAACP National Board of Directors

NAACP President/CEO

NAACP Indiana State Conference of Branches

This report summarizes the work and accomplishments of the Greater Terre Haute Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in 2008. This was the 99th year of civil rights advocacy for the Association. We should always appreciate the commitment and dedication of the men and women who volunteer their time to carry out the mission of the NAACP as they participate on the various committees to serve this community. It is a privilege to highlight our accomplishments. I am grateful for the challenges we have overcome.

Since this is the last time I plan to report to you as President and Chair of the Executive Committee, I will attempt to be as thorough as possible about the status of this NAACP unit. As I proceed, I encourage you to think about one question throughout:
"What is your deepest fear?"

National Leadership

Dennis Hayes served as Interim President/CEO while a search committee interviewed prospective candidates for the position of President/CEO.

Benjamin Todd Jealous was selected as the 17th person to lead the nation's oldest and largest civil rights organization in its 99th year. The 35 years old human rights activist and former black newspaper editor comes to the NAACP from the San Francisco-based Rosenberg Foundation, where he served as president since 2005. He became the National President/CEO in September.

Julian Bond, Chairman of the Board, announced recently that he would not seek re-election in February as Chairman. Since then he has reconsidered because so many members asked him to run again, suggesting the need for continuity in the Chairman's position. He shares "the hope expressed by many that we operate with increased civility and harmony in our Board deliberations. We owe it to each other and to the Association."

Dennis Hayes recently informed me that he is transitioning out of the NAACP. Currently he is a consultant until February. Angela Ciccolo is Interim General Counsel.

Compliance

As a branch, we are in compliance with our National charter requirements. The annual assessments to the National Office and the State Conference were paid prior to the conventions. The annual financial report was filed no later than March 1. A minimum of 50 memberships was maintained. Affiliation with the State Conference and attendance of the President (or designee) at State Convention and National Convention were maintained.

We sent 6 delegates and 3 alternates to the National Convention in Cincinnati in July. We also assisted the youth council and college chapter with transportation. Branch expenses totaled \$4,125.00 to include Branch Assessment (\$75.00), registrations (9@ \$100), and delegates' expenses (9@ \$350).

We sent 6 delegates to the State Conference Convention in Jeffersonville in October. Branch expenses totaled \$1,464.39, which included Branch Assessment and Branch Registration (\$200), delegate registrations (6@ \$45), event tickets (6@ \$45), and hotel (\$814.39).

In Memoriam

During the year we lost two members – Yvonne Sutton, a life member, and John Williams. Both were memorialized during a ceremony at the State Conference Convention in October.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Legal Redress

New Police Chief Addressed the Membership

Chief John Plasse attended the January Branch meeting and talked about his new position. He said he wants to be progressive and indicated he wants to know what the concerns are of people in the community. The following topics were discussed: the composition of the police force (which has few minorities and women); how to file complaints against the police department; what efforts are being made to recruit minorities; how to improve relations between police and the African American community; why people are allowed to stay on Wabash Avenue; if there is a high number of complaints about racial profiling? How to improve relations with ISU students?

Vigo County Prosecutor & Chief Public Defender Met With Membership

Chief Public Defender Gretchen Etling and Vigo County Prosecutor Terry Modesitt were both present to speak with the membership about their respective positions in the court system and the differences in their roles. They handle everything from child support to murder cases. They have a shortage of attorneys. Public Defenders: 1 Full-time, 23 Part-time, 1 Juvenile, Paralegal, 2 investigators. They had about 2200 cases in 2007 plus city court plus probation violations.

Prosecutors: 17 attorneys. The process starts with the police. Bond is set by judges and discussed by attorneys. They work with victims.

Anita Cochran, Federal Mediator from the U. S. Department of Justice, Community Relations Service, was also a guest during that meeting. There was a lot of discussion during the Q & A period.

Situations were investigated at the Vigo County jail and the Putnam Correctional facility. Requests were made for help to get stronger medication for inmates, some of whom have HIV/AIDS. Ex-felons are continuing to have trouble finding and/or keeping jobs; resources for employment are needed. Bullying problems in one of the middle schools have been investigated; more needs to be done to help youth learn to get along with each other.

How do you evaluate the service rendered by the Legal Redress Committee? Although volunteers are not compensated for their time, it is important to be aware of how much time they give. During the year Rev. Wood visited the jails at least twice a week, generally 4 – 5 hours per visit; he would see 3 – 4 inmates each time. That's approximately 100 visits per year. In addition, time was spent talking with attorneys, judges, family members, and police. Other committee members (including the Branch President) also visited inmates, went to court with people, answered phone calls and letters, and referred people to appropriate agencies for assistance. This work probably required at least 1,500 – 2,000 man-hours per year for 3 people.

Women In NAACP (WIN)

The Appreciation Luncheon became an annual event to thank everyone who donated to the WIN scholarship. The members and friends of WIN donated food for a lavish buffet salad spread. Donors were treated to a great program and delicious meal. Committee chair Bettie Davis suggested the theme, "Women's Art—Women's Vision in Our Community." Local women in various fields were invited to share their specialties. The four women who participated were inspiring as they shared their experiences with the very responsive audience of women and men. Featured were Mary Beth Seaward, Carolyn Tyler Roberts, Janice Amerson, and Helen Marberry.

WIN awarded three \$700 scholarships to minority students who successfully competed for the funds. The winners (all graduates of Terre Haute North High School) were Erica Dadzie and Brooke Reliford, both continuing their education at Indiana University, and Alexandria West, continuing her education at Ball State University.

The WIN scholarship fund received contributions of \$583.70. The fund had carried over \$1,516.30 from 2007; therefore, the total resources for 2008 equaled \$2,100.00. All of the money was awarded in scholarships.

Membership/Life Membership

The 3rd Biennial Black and White Affair to salute NAACP life members was held in March. This great gala honored the newest fully paid life members and appealed to others to join the program. A donation of \$300 to the National Office was contributed by First Financial Bank.

Renewal notices were sent from both our local office and the national office to remind members that we need and want their membership support. We also encouraged members to invite others to join the NAACP if they support the mission. From December 2007 through November 2008, we reported 276 regular and life members (new/renewals); that includes members who renewed through the automatic renewal program (ARP). The total amount paid by members was \$11,221.00. Membership fees of \$6,756.50 were remitted to the National Office, and the Branch retained \$4,464.50.

When you join the NAACP, you are a member of the national organization. Your membership includes a subscription to the Crisis Magazine. In addition, members now have PERKS benefits. Now, membership in the NAACP makes you eligible for other benefits, such as prescription discounts, insurance discounts, and bank services. You have the option to affiliate with a unit, such as a branch/college chapter/youth council, or you may be a member at large.

Education

African American History Resource Kits were researched, developed and assembled by members of the Education Committee of the Greater Terre Haute Branch NAACP. With the support of the Vigo County Education Foundation, funding was provided to make the kits available to the 18 elementary schools in Vigo County for grades K-5. There were special contributions from the Office of Diversity/Vigo County School Corporation, Staples, and Goetz Printing and Copy

Center. The Education Committee continues to work with the School Corporation to help the schools utilize the information in the kits.

The NAACP Senior Salute has become a tradition for the Education Committee to recognize graduating minority high school students at a special social event for students and their parents. Refreshments and gifts are provided. Each student is spotlighted and congratulated for his/her achievement. This year the event was held at Ben Franklin Elementary School. Lots of fun, food, and gifts were available. The motivational speaker was terrific. Area merchants donated the gifts for the students. A special engraved mug ("NAACP Salutes Achievement") and certificate with photograph is given to each graduate.

A field trip (after school) to the College Fair featuring Historically Black Colleges and Universities in Indianapolis during the Circle City Classic was sponsored for the benefit of senior and junior students. We had great cooperation from the administration and staff at Vigo County Schools to facilitate this trip, including getting a school bus which was paid for by a grant. Mike's Market donated food for the trip. NAACP members were chaperones.

African American Resource Kit expenses: \$93.36

Senior Salute expenses: \$196.82.

HBCU Tour expenses: None

ACT-SO

The ACT-SO kick-off introduced the program to about a dozen interested youth and several parents. Mentors were present to participate in activities to demonstrate the enrichment program that would be available through workshops, African-American history exercises, and other support events. A field trip to the Crispus Attucks Museum in Indianapolis was a highlight of the year.

Three students competed in five of the 26 ACT-SO categories. Judges who are experts in a category evaluated the presentations/performances. A gold medal must be achieved at the local level to advance to the national competition. Local competitions were in the following:

Science:	Physics
Performing Arts:	Music Vocal Classical and Dramatics
Humanities:	Poetry and Original Essay

The judges awarded a gold medal to the performer in Music Vocal Classical. The performer in Dramatics also won a gold medal. Because she was the same person, we had one winner to advance to the National Competition in two categories.

Erica Dadzie, a senior at Terre Haute North Vigo High School, advanced to the National ACT-SO competition in Orlando, Florida. Erica now attends Indiana University.

Alexandria Montgomery, an ACT-SO participant, was awarded a 2008 Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship by the Wabash Valley Community Foundation.

The 30th Anniversary of the NAACP ACT-SO program was celebrated this year. Special events were in place to highlight this significant milestone at Disney World. (That's the reason the

competition was scheduled in this location.) ACT-SO committee members who attended the event participated in motivational workshops as well as observed the competitions. The group returned very enthusiastic about expanding participation in the local ACT-SO program.

Volunteers who donated services/time and often supplies provided the work on the local level. First Financial Bank donated two vehicles for the field trip to the museum, and food was donated for refreshments. In 2008 local program expenses were only \$116.25; the expenses for the national competition program total \$4,214.38. Contributions by donors totaled \$2,625.00, which increased the total resources to \$4,315.42. The program has a shortfall of \$15.21.

Please note that a \$1,000 contribution had to be returned to a donor because National policy prohibits units from accepting contributions from people with whom the NAACP is involved in legal dispute. The National Office was slow in communicating the information to us, even after we inquired several times for clarification. Apparently that is a side effect of transitory administration at the national level. It was unfortunate that we had to return significant funds to a contributor who has supported our program faithfully for many years.

Community Coordination

Minority Health Coalition & NAACP & ISU Town Hall Meeting on Diabetes Awareness

Featuring Dr. Isaiah Pittman and Dr. Lynn Pittman

Human Rights Day: Focus – Voting Rights

Workshops, Speakers, Dramatic Performances, March Against Hate, Voter Registration

Juneteenth Day/Urban Antix

Families By Choice/Celebrating the Family Table

African-American Festival of Hyte Community Center

Youth Work

We sponsored the 7 youth and advisor that participated in the second NAACP Youth Leadership Summit sponsored by the Indiana NAACP State Conference. The Summit was held in Merrillville (Gary) in August. The Branch paid \$486.77 for registrations, hotel and travel expenses. First Financial Bank provided a van for transportation.

Religious Affairs

The Wabash Valley Family Day of Prayer on Saturday, January 19, 2008 provided an opportunity for the entire community to come together to pray, praise, worship, and testify. This program addressed the community's need for healing from the effects of racism and injustice, addictions, mental illness, suicide, and violence. It was held at Ryves Hall.

Freedom Fund

The annual Freedom Fund Awards Banquet provides an opportunity for corporate and community sponsors to show both moral and financial support of our efforts to eliminate racism and fulfill the mission of the NAACP. This is the primary fundraising event for the Branch. We focus on giving attendees a memorable experience that will help them gain a better sense of what we stand for and what remains to be done in the struggle. This is a time when everyone who believes in the NAACP can participate – financially.

This year we had a great reception and banquet. Everyone was in a festive mood. We had a chance to say “thank you” to those officers and/or executive committee members who have been especially active in carrying out the mission of the NAACP.

Recipients of President’s Awards were: Bettie E. Davis, Valerie Hart-Craig, Herley Johnson, John E. Lang, Martha Jordan, Oscar Session, Pastor Thomas Wood, Charles Norman, Kendall Boyd, Diana Carole Hart, Muriel Ryan, Earle Harvey, Sylvester Edwards, Shirley Wilson, Barbara Ford, Margaret Pabst, Hiawatha Garrett, Ken (Omar) Maddox, Bernard Ryan, and Jack Schroeder.

Three Branch Awards were presented. Drucella Thomas received the Community Service Award for Youth Mentoring and Commitment to Helping People. She was recognized for tireless commitment to the elimination of racism through her volunteer work on numerous NAACP committees and on the Anti-Racism Team with the Sisters of Providence and for being a mentor to African American children. **The Humanitarian Award was presented to Dr. George Bittar for Exemplary Service and Extraordinary Support.** We acknowledged his role in bringing diversity to the medical community and for making generous contributions to NAACP youth programs. **Ann D. Smith was presented the Leadership Award for Exemplary Community Leadership and Advocacy.** She was recognized for her leadership in the educational arena to inspire, encourage and mentor African American students so that they can achieve optimal levels of academic and personal success, for her leadership of the NAACP Education Committee that compiled and presented an invaluable African American History Resource Kit for Vigo County Schools, and for promoting economic and financial literacy among African American women.

This was the 99th year of civil rights advocacy for the NAACP. Our theme was “Power, Justice, Freedom, VOTE!” Tanya Bell, Esq., President and Chief Executive Officer of the Indiana Black Expo, Inc., was our keynote speaker.

Corporations, educational and governmental institutions, health-care professionals, churches, and individual donors supported us through contributions and ticket sales. Advertisements were purchased for the program book.

Gross income (all sources) totals \$10,180.00, and expenses total \$6,356.05. Our net proceeds equal \$3,823.95, and we are able to pay an assessment of \$955.99 to the National Office (which is 25%). The net Branch share is \$2,867.96.

Political Action

Voter Registration Drives

We conducted voter registration drives in cooperation with other groups throughout the County. We worked with the League of Women Voters and the ISU NAACP College Chapter.

NAACP volunteers trained with Election Protection throughout the State of Indiana to provide ground assistance for voters on Primary Election Day and Election Day. In addition to trying to resolve problems voters encountered, we collected information about any election irregularities.

Hate Crime Bill

We monitored the progress of HB1076 as the hearing process started in the State Legislature. A representative from northern Indiana attempted to amend the bill to allow an unborn fetus as a protected class. The bill sponsors pulled the bill rather than have it amended. We encouraged our State Conference to remind NAACP units in Indiana to work in their local communities to generate awareness of the need for this legislation and to seek support among other groups.

Response to Hate Crimes: Peace Rally and Council Resolution

Hate Crimes continued to be evident in the community. Two separate incidents of violence were committed against the Allen Chapel AME Church and the Thai Restaurant on 3rd Street; someone painted a swastika on each location.

The NAACP Executive Committee decided to go to the Terre Haute City Council and ask them what Terre Haute leadership was going to do about the hate incidents being committed here. We stressed the importance of having them speak up and speak out against hate, as well as give full support to passage of a "hate crime" law in Indiana. During our dialogue with them, we talked about holding a community sponsored "peace rally" to demonstrate unity against such acts. At that time they would present their signed resolution to support hate crime legislation, to be given to our State legislators. The Mayor and the City Council were in full support of the idea. This would be an event everyone could participate in.

Hate Crimes in the Terre Haute area and the need for hate crime legislation in the State of Indiana have been the focus of the community locally and across the State due to the activities of this Branch. The Terre Haute City Council proposed a resolution to support such legislation, and the NAACP orchestrated a community peace rally that gave the citizens an opportunity to show they agreed with the Council's move. Terre Haute's was the first City Council in the State to take such action. Human Relations Commissions around the State encouraged other cities to do the same; we have reminded other Indiana NAACP branches to show similar support.

The peace rally was very successful. This is a great example of what we can do when we work together to do the real work of the NAACP. Many individuals and groups in the community joined to show support. Other cities around Indiana need to bring such awareness to their legislators about the need for this legislation. (The excellent local newspaper coverage in The Tribune-Star is included as part of this report.)

UNITED EFFORT

TERRE HAUTE CITIZENS RALLY FOR HATE CRIME LAWS
AS CITY COUNCIL PASSES SUPPORTING RESOLUTION



Tribune-Star/Jim Avelis

Walk in peace: Demonstrators flash the "Peace" sign as they sing verses to "We Shall Overcome" on Thursday evening on the steps of the Vigo County Courthouse.

Crowd at rally urges Council to pass resolution

By ARTHUR E. FOULKES
TRIBUNE-STAR

Around 75 people gathered Thursday night on the steps of the Vigo County Courthouse to urge the Terre Haute City Council to pass a resolution supporting statewide hate crimes legislation.



Theresa Bynum of the Terre Haute NAACP chapter.

The crowd sang "We Shall Overcome" and held up signs reading "Terre Haute United Against Hate, Racism and Prejudice."

"What an awesome sight," said Jeff Lorick, director of the Terre Haute Human Relations Commission. Thousands of Americans are victims of hate crimes each year, he said. By voting for a hate crimes resolution, the City Council would become "the first city council in the state to do this," said Theresa Bynum, president of the Greater Terre Haute NAACP, which organized efforts to put forward the resolution.

► Turn to **RALLY**, A4

FOCUS OF THE CITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION

"Resolved: That the City of Terre Haute hereby urges the State of Indiana to adopt hate crimes legislation to prohibit crimes that are committed against individuals or groups on the basis of race, creed, color, ethnicity, national origin, disability, gender, or sexual orientation, and to prosecute those who are engaged in or encourage such harmful activity in the State of Indiana. The City of Terre Haute hereby pledges its assistance to the State of Indiana to take any steps necessary to achieve this goal."



Tribune-Star/Jim Avelis

Be resolved: Todd Nation brings the Thursday evening meeting of the Terre Haute City Council to order.

Council urges Indiana Legislature to pass bill

By ARTHUR E. FOULKES
TRIBUNE-STAR

The Terre Haute City Council voted 8-1 Thursday night in favor of a resolution urging the State of Indiana to adopt hate crimes legislation.

Councilman Turk Roman, D-2nd, was the lone "no" vote.

A large crowd filled the City Court room where the council meets to watch the vote and speak about the resolution.

"This is a very important resolution," said state Rep. Clyde Kersey, D-Terre Haute, who spoke to the nine-member council before the vote. Indiana is one of five states not to have a hate crimes law on the books, he said. "We're way behind the others," he said.

Indiana's proposed hate crimes law is House Bill 1076, said Rep. Vern Tincher, D-Riley, who also spoke to the councilmen. Such a law would allow judges to take an act of racial hatred or other hatred into account in sentencing, he said. "It is a first step," he said.

► Turn to **COUNCIL**, A4

Tribune

WWW.TRIBSTAR.COM

Star

Rally: Most of the crowd went to meeting

► Continued from A1

Later Thursday night, the City Council voted for the resolution 8-1.

Passing hate crimes legislation is "about doing the right thing," said Greg Porter, a member of the Indiana House of Representatives from Indianapolis and an author of Indiana's proposed hate crimes bill. "Equitable treatment, that's what we're about," he said.

Bynum urged the crowd to leave the courthouse steps around 6:45 p.m. and attend the City Council meeting at 7 in City Hall. Most of the crowd went to the meeting to hear the council discuss and then vote on the resolution.

"What we do here today is being watched," said Todd Nation, president of the City Council and a speaker at the rally. "This is a good thing," he told the crowd.

Hate crimes legislation holds people who commit hate crimes accountable, Bynum said after the rally. Indiana's proposed hate crimes law would require police to report hate crimes and would allow for enhanced penalties in crimes in which hate against a class of people was a motivating factor, she said. There are already laws that allow for stiffer penalties when the victim is a police



officer, Bynum noted.

Several area politicians were in the crowd at the rally Thursday evening. State representatives Clyde Kersey, D-Terre Haute, and Vern Tischer, D-Riley, spoke in favor of the hate crimes law. Indiana can either pass a hate crimes law or "remain mired in the muddy soil of the status quo," Tischer said.

Kendall Boyd, a prosecutor in the Vigo County prosecutor's office and former Terre Haute city attorney, urged the crowd to write their lawmakers to urge them to pass a hate crimes law. "This statute protects everybody," he said. "You, too, could be a victim of a hate crime."

Arthur Foulkes can be reached at (812) 231-4232 or arthur.foulkes@tribstar.com.

We shall overcome: About 60 people showed up for a demonstration Thursday evening on the steps of the Vigo County Courthouse. They were showing their support for a Terre Haute City Council resolution to the state Legislature regarding hate crimes.

Tribune-Star/Jim Avelis

Council: Airport rezoning on agenda

► Continued from A1

Councilman Norm Loudermilk, D-3rd, moved that the council adopt the resolution. Councilman Jim Chalos seconded Loudermilk's motion.

"Hate crimes are so difficult," Roman said. Judges in Indiana already have the authority to impose tougher sentences if some sort of racial or other prejudice motivates a crime, he said, adding that the 14th Amendment to the Constitution guarantees equal protection of the law. "We already have all of the facets in place," he said.

Several members of the public spoke in favor of passing the resolution. Theresa Bynum, president of the Greater Terre Haute NAACP, thanked the council for supporting the resolution.

One member of the public, Wendell Kirkman, pastor of Bible Holiness Church in Terre Haute, spoke out against the resolution. Kirkman said hate crimes laws have been used to silence people handing out religious literature at gay rights events. He urged the council to adopt a resolution calling on the state to mandate that marriages must be between a man and a woman. "I would be happy to see that," he said.

The crowd applauded



Tribune-Star/Jim Avelis

Opposed: Wendell Kirkman, pastor of Bible Holiness Church in Terre Haute, asks the City Council not to pass the resolution regarding hate crimes. He asked instead that they ask the Indiana General Assembly to consider a bill defining a marriage as between one man and one woman.

when the council passed the hate-crime resolution in a roll call vote.

Also at Thursday night's meeting, the council voted 7-2 in favor of rezoning property on Hunt Road near Terre Haute International Airport-Hulman Field to allow for a proposed FedEx Ground facility. The two no votes came from council president Todd Nation and John Mullican, D-6th.

"I think they needed to do more work on it," Nation said of the rezoning ordinance. Nation and Mullican each

noted that the ordinance did not specify the type of "buffer zone" that would be required between the future FedEx facility and a neighboring residence.

The specifics of the buffer zone will be negotiated in the future, said Al Withrow, who lives next to the proposed FedEx location. Withrow and his wife, Elizabeth Art, already have been in discussions with the developer, Art told the council.

Arthur Foulkes can be reached at (812) 231-4232 or arthur.foulkes@tribstar.com.

Press & Publicity

Many thanks to the 16 cheerful volunteers who took time to ring the bell for the Salvation Army on one day at Kroger South. It's a great way to contribute to "the reason for the season" and to spend time together. Despite the depressed economy, people seemed generous in their giving this year. Donations totaled \$562.65 that day. Happy Holidays!

Lest We Forget – Highlights of Years Past

- 1987 Terre Haute Branch owed National Office \$3,500.00 in assessments; for the previous 10 years no president had completed his/her term and financial obligations had not been met. Newly elected President Bynum researched the situation and requested a waiver from the National Office; a waiver was granted for the past years' indebtedness.
- 1988 – 2008 The Terre Haute Branch has held annual Freedom Fund Awards Banquets, paid the freedom fund assessment each year, supported the Indiana State Conference, and sent delegates to Regional, National and State Conventions.

Celebrate Diversity Essay Contest

1992 – 2001 Terre Haute NAACP and Terre Haute Tribune-Star co-sponsored this essay contest for Wabash Valley students. Established by Earle Harvey to motivate youth to think about diversity. Contest levels were high school, middle school and elementary school; over the years the number of entries ranged from 1,500 to 3,000 students in 1997. Impartial judges from outside the Wabash Valley judged them. The contest was turned over to the Terre Haute Human Relations Commission in 2002.

Terre Haute Human Relations Commission

1997 Mayor Jim Jenkins appointed Human Relations Study Committee, chaired by Earle Harvey, with Aletha Carter, Rev. Don Mullen, Esther Atcherson, and others. After almost 4 years of struggle, the ordinance establishing the HR Commission was passed; today that Commission currently, chaired by Jeff Lorick, is an integral and vital part of city government.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Drive

Street recognizing Dr. King in the City of Terre Haute

This was a hard fought and hard won initiative. The NAACP mounted a 1,400 verified signature drive that demonstrated widespread support of the name change. We won only by the final push of Councilman Chuck Miles. The compromise name "change" of 13th Street, albeit temporary and easily reversible, was accomplished without impact on business addresses; the entire length of 13th Street within the City limits has the signage. It is up to the community to insure that the name recognition is maintained.

Terre Haute Human Rights Day

A community partner since 2001, the NAACP is a sponsor and participates in the annual day of activities at Indiana State University established to promote understanding and recognition of the inherent dignity and inalienable rights of all members of the human

family. Commitment to preservation and achievement of these ideals serves as the foundations of freedom, justice, and peace.

Statewide Martin Luther King, Jr. Essay Contest

An annual contest that attracts 5,000 – 11,000 entries from throughout the state of Indiana, students are challenged to write on a committee-assigned topic about diversity, which might be the first time in their lives they have thought about issues of full inclusion and parity for all members of our society. On becoming a member of the statewide Executive Committee, Earle Harvey served as an organizer and judge in this contest. Until recently he has represented the local NAACP on this Committee.

Bell Ringing for the Salvation Army

Since 2002, a group of NAACP members volunteered to ring the bell for the Salvation Army at a site once a year. Believing that an agency needs to engage in various forms of networking to achieve full recognition and legitimacy for itself and its members, 12 - 16 volunteers represented the NAACP in this project, until this year.

RESIGNATIONS

The Greater Terre Haute Branch is losing significant resources as a result of the internal conflicts that have continued unresolved for so long. Initially, 3 executive committee members or officers submitted their resignations. We lost the service of Rev. Rebecca Zelensky, Religious Affairs Committee chair, followed by Terri McGee, Assistant Treasurer, and Anthony Butler, Health Committee chair.

When the Branch election process began seven officers and executive committee members would not even consider being nominated to run again. Committed only to completing their current terms were Oscar Session, 3rd Vice President; Martha Jordan, Secretary; Muriel Ryan, Chair of Political Action Committee; Bettie Davis, Chair of WIN Committee; Ann Smith, Chair of Education Committee, and Executive Committee Members At-Large Kendall Boyd and Charles Norman.

Prior to the Branch election, nine candidates withdrew from the election, so that their names would be removed from the ballot. Those currently serving are only committed to completing their current terms. They are A. Theresa Bynum, President; Rev. Thomas Wood, 2nd Vice President; Drucella Thomas, Assistant Secretary; John E. Lang, Assistant Treasurer; Diana Carole Hart, Chair of Economic Development; Earle Harvey, Chair of Press & Publicity; Valerie Hart-Craig, Chair of Youth Work. The other two are Sylvester Edwards and Carroll Vasbinder.

The decision by the majority of the current officers and executive committee members to resolve the unfortunate conflict by removing ourselves from the situation was difficult but determined to be our best alternative. It is ridiculous to continue trying to be productive in a battlefield environment that has apparent support from a couple of state level people who used their influence at the national level to be disruptive locally. Then there was the sudden influx of memberships (30 days before the election), mostly paid in cash. Just about everyone knows that these were "sponsored" by someone with money (over \$4,000) to throw around.

What's YOUR greatest fear?

Branch Election

The Branch election process occurred on schedule from September through November.

The membership was notified of the schedule in September.

The Nominating Committee was elected at the September Branch meeting.

A notice was mailed to the membership announcing the Nominating Committee's interview schedule for prospective candidates.

The Nominating Committee gave its report at the October Branch meeting. After certification of the nominees, nominations were made from the floor. The Election Supervisory Committee was elected to conduct the election.

A notice was mailed to the membership announcing the details of the election.

The Branch election was held at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church (1001 So. 15th Street) on the 3rd Thursday in November (11/20/08) from 2:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

100 ballots were cast. The slate was unopposed.

The Branch spent \$465.79 to conduct the election. Three mailings to the membership cost \$216.92. Rental for the election site was \$150.00, and printing of ballots was \$13.00. Food for the election workers was \$85.87.

Article X Review

The President presented a report to the membership on the Article X filed against A. Theresa Bynum in 2007 by members of the Terre Haute Branch. The report was a full disclosure of what was charged, the demands of the complainants, an explanation of the process, and the outcome or decision rendered by the National Board of Directors on July 17, 2008. Our efforts to satisfy the requirements of the National Board have been met with interference.

Thirty members of the Branch signed the formal complaint in October 2007. The lead complainant was Mae Turner White, Branch Treasurer. Others signing the complaint were as follows: Allegra Allen, Marcia Allen, Larry White, Wesley K. White, Meredyth K. White, Stacy Hurtt, C. Dwayne Malone, Irene Malone, Margaret Taylor, Elizabeth Miller, Jennifer Nelson, Shirley Perez, Franklin Brown, Tuere Brown, Margaret Lockard, Ida Shauntee', Danelle Hatfield, Delores Taylor, Gail Howell, Janice Amerson, Clister DeBow, Bessie H. Ross, Arthur Stokes/A. J. Stokes, Archie Smith, Jr., Jamaal Smith, Hermine Cherry, Debra Tyler, Tiffany Kelley, and Joseph Selliken.

A 600-page document with 7 claims detailed charges that the complainants alleged were violations of the NAACP Constitution and Bylaws for Units. They maintained that the President should be immediately suspended and investigated.

The complainants requested that the National Office take the following actions:

1. Immediate removal from office of President A. Theresa Bynum of the Greater Terre Haute Branch NAACP
2. Immediate possession of all records of the Branch
3. Conduct an audit of the Vigo County Federal Credit Union account
4. Secure all financial records for fundraisers from Luehr's Ideal Rides, Inc.

5. Ban President A. Theresa Bynum from being a member of the NAACP
6. Conduct an investigation for embezzlement of funds from the Branch and the National Office
7. Upon removal from office of President A. Theresa Bynum, the National Office should speak to the local African-American Community to re-establish their faith and trust in the local NAACP

Process

The National Board decided that a Hearing should be conducted. The National Board Committee on Membership and Units, chaired by Mr. James Ghee, was in charge. He convened a Hearing panel and established the rules.

Hearing

A 3-hour hearing conducted via teleconference was held in April 2008. Presentations by both parties were made with witnesses and opportunity for cross-examination. A panel of National Board Members, i.e., Judge Fred Banks (MS), Mrs. Carolyn Coleman (NC), and Rev. Amos Brown (CA) conducted the Hearing. [Rev. Brown left before the Hearing was completed.] They requested that both parties provide additional information. They would make a recommendation to the National Board Committee on Membership and Units.

The Committee on Membership and Units made a recommendation to the full National Board of Directors in July 2008.

The National Board directed the following:

1. Interim President/CEO Dennis Hayes to send an official letter of reprimand to President A. Theresa Bynum regarding a violation of NAACP Policy and Procedure (i.e., failure to disclose information regarding a bank account and being the single signatory)
2. Executive Committee Training by the National Office at Branch expense
3. Branch Audit at Branch expense

Compare the outcome (the Board's decision) to the list of actions requested by the complainants. Obviously their allegations were not substantiated, except for the one violation for which I have been reprimanded. Both National staff and National Board members reviewed the allegations; a Hearing was conducted. A decision was rendered. Yet, some of the complainants are still making accusations.

Watch out for the Bushwackers!

Those are cowards who hide in the shadows, anonymously make surly innuendoes from the cover of coded identities, and initiate whisper campaigns like gossip, mean-spirited, small-minded children. They put derogatory messages in blogs and mystery papers.

I am really disappointed in the way the National Board has handled this Article X. They have failed to communicate effectively how to carry out their decision.

The Chair of the Committee on Membership and Units apparently overruled the Board's decision to have training for the current Executive Committee.

When I initially tried to establish a date for the training session, I was advised that since we are "in the midst of the Branch election cycle, would a time in October work best, that way we can include current and any potential candidates? Since this training has been mandated by the National Board...Please work with the Executive Committee to identify 3 dates in October..."

Tuesday, October 21, 2008 was established. Regional Director, Rev. Gill Ford was scheduled to conduct the session for the National Office. Arrangements were made for him and the meeting at the local Holiday Inn. Executive Committee members had arranged their schedules to attend, and a dinner meal was planned.

Nominations were being made on Monday, October 20. We planned to invite newly nominated candidates to attend if they could. During the Branch meeting, Treasurer Mae White informed me that she thought the Tuesday meeting had been cancelled; since I had not been given such notice, I expected it to be in place. She was immediately on the (cell) phone to someone. When I got home, I received an email time-stamped 9:49 p.m. from Rev. Ford apologizing that he had "been made aware that the training session in Terre Haute had to be postponed until after the election." With less than 24 hours notice, the meeting had to be canceled. [No one provided an explanation as to WHY?]

Immediately after the Branch election, Rev. Ford and I worked together to establish a new date for the training session. He indicated that he could come only on the first Friday in December. I stressed the importance of not canceling again. I had to make arrangements for 31 people on very short notice. He approved the set-up, and I signed a contract with the Holiday Inn for a meeting room with dinner. Before Thanksgiving I mailed letters to everyone notifying them of the event and requested a response by December 2. At the Executive Committee meeting on December 1, President-elect Allegra Allen announced that she objected to the meeting and was trying to get it canceled. She also objected to having Rev. Ford conduct the training.

This time they got the Chair of Membership and Units, Mr. James Ghee, to override the Board's decision about the need for the training session. Now you can be certain that our State Conference President Barbara Bolling and National Board member Cora Breckenridge are connected to this. What none of us can figure out is WHY they were so determined to avoid having our current Executive Committee members in a "training session" with the Regional Director to talk about the Article X complaint and the Board's recommendations?

What would be your greatest fear?

When I spoke with Mr. Ghee, he said that there's no need (now) to have training for people who are not going to be continuing into next year. It certainly was not our idea to postpone the training. Given the hostility and tensions that have persisted in this Branch

for so long, that joint meeting could have provided a great opportunity to resolve some issues with the objectivity of a National staff person.

Mr. Ghee agreed that the audit should be completed. He assured me that he would remind the Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Cox, to get in touch with me so that we can complete the arrangements for an audit. Several weeks ago Mr. Cox talked to me about having a firm in Washington, D. C. do the audit; he did not seem interested in discussing recommendations for a local auditing firm. Prior to that the Internal Affairs Manager had informed me that we were to arrange to have the audit done and have it approved by the National Office; however, there was delay in communicating the guidelines for the audit. As of this time, no one at the national level has been helpful in facilitating the audit.

Bitterness, dislike, and indifference have become the words people are using to describe how they feel about the NAACP. That makes me sad but unfortunately I understand the reason. Where are the people who really care?

By the way, that Executive Committee training session that was cancelled cost the Branch \$311.61.

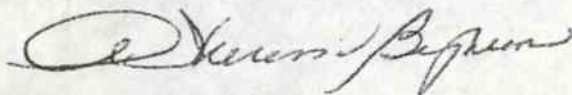
Conclusion

Have you determined an answer to the question "What is your deepest fear?"

The classic response: "Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.
Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure."
(Marianne Williamson, *Return To Love*)

Until I recognized that power, I didn't know what time it was. Following the example of Isaac when dealing with the Philistines (reference Genesis 26), I am moving on because it's time to dig a new well. In fact, that's exactly what all of us have decided – IT'S TIME TO DIG A NEW WELL!.

Ladies and Gentlemen,
That concludes my report for 2008.



A. Theresa Bynum